

## Sluggish industry attacked by Howe

By Sarah Hogg  
Economics Editor

An "agenda of action" for European industry, to enable it to compete in world markets with the United States and Japan, was outlined by the Foreign Secretary yesterday.

Sir Geoffrey Howe voiced wide-ranging criticisms of Europe's industrial performance in a speech to the Institute of Directors, and called for:

- Tax incentives to encourage "European innovative projects", through such means as Britain's Business Expansion Scheme.
- An easier tax treatment of profits from new patents to be considered.

- A review of purchasing policies by European governments in high-technology industries, with particular support for the development of the "Eurotype" variant.

- Stimulus to private industries to increase research and development, where Sir Geoffrey complained that Europe was lagging behind.

He said that Britain was "woefully slow to innovate" and that too many British companies "seem to prefer living in a fool's paradise" to competing internationally. However, he claimed that our European competitors "are in trouble too".

"A European company which secures enough of its national market to bring it into the global competitive league is liable to be hauled before its national competition authority," he said.

This must be interpreted as a significant criticism of Britain's present merger policy, which is already causing widespread unease.

Sir Geoffrey voiced surprisingly strong support for the European Commission's efforts to break down industrial barriers in the EEC on a timetable to be completed by 1992. He trod carefully around the issue of European collaboration.

## Portfolio

Yesterday's prize in The Times Portfolio competition — £5,000 because there were no winners on the two previous days — was shared by four readers: Mr B W Berry, of Warrington, Surrey; Miss Andrea Christodoulou, of London W8; Mr N Forrest, of Blackburn, Lancs; and Mr D Healey, of Blackpool, Lancs. Portfolio first prize £5,000; how to play, information service, page 32.

## New rules on takeover bids

The Stock Exchange has issued new rules to curtail the use of "poison pill" tactics in takeover battles. Companies will have to seek shareholders' approval before agreeing to pay "costs and losses not in the ordinary course of business."

## Arms setback

American and Russian arms control negotiators in Geneva ended their fourth round of talks on nuclear and space weapons with each blaming the other for lack of progress.

## Forgery role

A former FBI agent and an international arms dealer claimed they were working on behalf of the United States government when arrested with nearly \$500,000 counterfeit dollars.

## NatWest rise

Bank shares moved sharply ahead yesterday after National Westminster reported annual profits 20 per cent higher at £804 million — well above market expectations. Page 17

## Unita hint

Unita may bargain for the release of about 150 expatriate workers, including at least two Britons, who were seized by its guerrillas in northern Angola. Page 6

## Coe's plan

The England v US athletics meeting on Saturday will mark Sebastian Coe's final major domestic event of the season until the Commonwealth Games. Page 23

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## Botha offers to lift emergency 'in near future'

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

In an address to a specially-convened joint session of the white, Indian and Coloured members of the South African Parliament, President Botha said yesterday that he intended to lift the state of emergency "in the near future", and also announced a new initiative in the long-running international dispute over Namibia (South-West Africa).

Mr Botha said a proclamation suspending the emergency, in force since July 21 last year, would probably be issued on Friday. Although "sporadic and isolated incidents of violence" were continuing in various parts of the country, the overall situation had improved sufficiently to make the emergency no longer necessary, he said.

The timing of the President's announcement took observers here by surprise. There has been little slackening in violence. More than 100 deaths in politically-motivated unrest were recorded in January, and the toll cannot have been much lower in February, which saw at least 23 people killed in several days of rioting and police counter-action in the black ghetto of Alexandra in northern Johannesburg alone.

Only a few hours before Mr Botha rose to make his announcement, a bomb exploded in the Johannesburg regional headquarters of the South African police. Two white policemen were slightly

injured by flying glass, according to the police.

The police released few details, and also issued a notice reminding journalists that it is an offence under South African law to take pictures of a police station. It appears the bomb was placed in a lavatory on the second floor of the building, known as John Vorster Square.

It is notorious with blacks as a place where the security police conduct many of their interrogations of persons held

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under South Africa's detention-without-trial laws. So far as is known it is the first bomb attack on the building.

No organization has yet claimed responsibility, but it seems to fit the pattern of sharply increased armed activity by insurgents of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC). Early yesterday morning two limpet mines exploded in an electricity sub-station near Durban, causing a blackout.

On Monday, police killed seven black men they described as ANC terrorists in a gunbattle in a black township near Cape Town.

The emergency, originally imposed in 36 magisterial districts, is currently in force in 23, 14 of them in the Johannesburg region, five in

the Eastern Cape, four in the Western Cape, including Cape Town. At its most extensive, the emergency covered 38 districts and about a third of the population.

In his statement, Mr Botha said that, in order to enable the police to continue dealing with unrest after the emergency is lifted, existing legislation would be "reviewed and amendments proposed" during the current session of Parliament, "to provide the authorities with the statutory powers required to protect lives and property effectively".

Even before the emergency was imposed, the police already had wide powers of arrest and detention under permanent security laws. Lifting the emergency may not, therefore, make much practical difference.

It also remains to be seen whether the curbs on press and television coverage of unrest, which were imposed last November under the emergency, will now lapse, or be replaced by other measures.

Ending the state of emergency may be designed to impress foreign opinion as much as anything. The seven-member Commonwealth "Eminent Persons Group" is currently in South Africa, with a brief to report back to Commonwealth Governments by June on the pace of reform in South Africa and the efforts made by Pretoria to negotiate with black leaders.

## Sogat cars seized by court

By Patricia Clough and Richard Dowden

A High Court judge yesterday ordered the seizure of 79 cars belonging to Sogat, 32 of which the court ordered to be sold, in an attempt to take over Austin Rover.

Mr Justice Taylor also warned that the union offices might be closed and its officials expelled. He rejected an application for Sogat's local funds to be exempted.

It has also been disclosed that Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, met Mr Bruce Matthews, News International managing director, at a secret location on Monday night.

The talks were described as "informal" and "exploratory" although no details were released. They are to be resumed, but no date has been set. Mr Willis asked for the meeting after the EETPU, the electricians' union, agreed to a joint approach to the management.

Sogat's £17 million assets were sequestered on February 10 after it ignored a court order to stop blocking The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun and The News of the World. The union was also fined £25,000, but has not revoked the blocking order. Around 4,000 of its members have been dismissed by the company.

Mr Justice Taylor said of his decision to seize the union cars: "It seems to me there is no good reason why the motor cars should not be taken into sequestration with the other property of the union. It may well be that the impact of the sequestration may be felt more acutely, and the contempt be brought to an end more quickly."

But he added: "It should be said that the union, through its officers, has been extremely co-operative in carrying out the requirements of the sequestrators and their duties under the law. For that co-operation much credit is due to them."

The judge allowed the sequestrators to make "compassionate" payments. Newspaper revolution, page 2

## Takeover veto may cost jobs, say Ford

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The spectre of widespread factory closures and job losses among the million-strong labour force in the British motor component industry was raised yesterday by Ford after the Government veto of its attempt to take over Austin Rover.

Mr Bob Lutz, the chairman of Ford in Britain, said that the risk of major plant closures in the UK would have been lessened had the deal been allowed to proceed. The Government put an end to the discussions in the face of a Commons backbench revolt.

Speaking before the opening of the Geneva Motor Show and just hours before the Government deadline on the submission of bids for the takeover of BL's Land Rover Leyland subsidiary, Mr Lutz said the abandonment of the

talks between the two car companies was "a huge missed opportunity — a tragedy for Ford and a tragedy for Britain".

Had Ford taken over Austin Rover, the "design-led" engineering would have stayed in Britain, he said. Speaking on the BBC radio programme *World at One*, Mr Lutz said that Ford employed 50,000 in the UK, 20,000 more than Austin Rover.

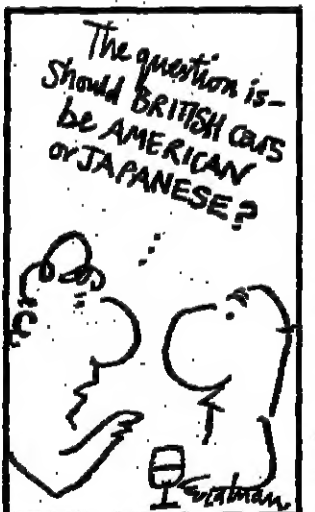
Asked whether the two companies might talk again, Mr Lutz said the public climate would have to change first.

In a pointed attack on Honda, which has a long-term collaboration deal with BL, Mr Lutz added: "Blind nationalism welcomes the Japanese as a white knight to save Britain from the Americans. That is wrong."

Hill Samuel, BL's merchant bank, was last night waiting for the final submissions to take over the state-owned company's Land Rover Leyland subsidiary. General Motors of the United States emerged as the only bidder for the trucks business, while the more attractive Land Rover operation was expected to draw up to six "expressions of interest".

The Department of Trade and Industry said the fate of the Land Rover Leyland group will be decided by the end of March.

• Ford yesterday announced record orders from Britain's major car hire companies



## Scholars rule against Getty masterpiece

The Getty Museum in California may have overpaid by several millions for one of its recent acquisitions (Geraldine Norman writes).

The *Annunciation* cost them a reputed \$6 million (£4.1 million) on the grounds that it was an authentic work by the fifteenth-century artist Piero della Francesca and in pristine condition. An investigation undertaken

by The Times records scholarly opinion weighted against the Bonts attribution and in favour of its being painted by one of his workshop assistants or a later follower.

More seriously, the results of the Getty's own technical examination indicate that much of the surface has been overpainted. *Spectator*, page 10

## BMA red-faced over advice on Pill

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The association sit on the GMC, the doctors' disciplinary body, and went along with its guidance.

The BMA's central ethical committee has now recommended to the association's council, which meets today, that it should call on the GMC to reconsider and "make it absolutely clear that the right to consult a doctor in complete confidence has not been changed in any way".

The BMA has taken detailed legal advice and will tell its council that the GMC's advice is wrong in law and likely to harm patients.

The situation is particularly

embarrassing for the BMA as the recommendation seeking a change of mind has come unanimously from the association's central ethical committee, whose chairman, Dr Sandy Macara, is a member of the GMC committee which drew up the guidance. Other leading BMA figures on the GMC then went along with it.

Dr Macara said yesterday that he had been "very concerned" all along that the GMC's advice would be misinterpreted. He believed the legal position was that the GMC was entitled to tell doctors to give under-age girls

absolute confidentiality save in the most exceptional circumstances such as rape or incest, where a doctor might feel it necessary to inform others.

Tomorrow, the Department of Health is expected to issue its guidance in the wake of the Law Lords' ruling. It is expected to reinforce its previous advice that doctors must make all efforts to persuade girls aged under 16 to tell their

parents, but may prescribe the pill without parents' consent where the girl is adamant she will not inform her parents.



A 1943 photograph which the World Jewish Congress alleges shows Dr Waldheim (second left) at an airstrip in Yugoslavia with an Italian commander and two German officers.

## Unionist leaders seek initiative with dialogue call

By Richard Ford and Philip Webster

The leaders of Northern Ireland's two Unionist parties yesterday attempted to regain the political initiative from

hardline "loyalists" by indicating they wanted dialogue rather than violent street protests to oppose the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The Government meanwhile made clear that the door remains open for talks with Ulster Unionists about devolution after what Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, described as the "tragic and totally counter-productive" day of protest on Monday.

But the lack of a coherent Unionist strategy in opposing the deal is causing concern to the Government which fears that the void being created will make the situation in the province during the next few months even more dangerous and volatile.

Senior officials know that hardline loyalists plan to whip up trouble during this year's marching season and that the credibility of Mr James Molyneux and the Reverend Ian Paisley is now seriously threatened by more ruthless and sinister forces waiting in the wings.

As the Province returned to normal life after a day of intimidation and violence the divisions between the two Unionist parties were barely papered over by an anodyne

statement issued after a joint press conference was suddenly cancelled.

Figures released yesterday showed there had been 84 demonstrations, 57 arrests, 655 road blocks in which 441 were cleared by police, 237 reports of intimidation, 47 police injuries, 65 plastic baton rounds fired, 184 cases are being considered for prosecution, 132 allegations of police inactivity and 43 complaints arising from police action.

Mr Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionists, condemned the violent activities that had occurred and said his party wanted no further part in any future day of action. However, Mr Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, said he did not rule out any tactic in the future.

Mr King attacked Unionist MPs whom he said had been seen "making common cause with people in paramilitary dress".

He told the Commons that 47 policemen were injured and there were more than 20 shots fired.

Mr King told the Commons: "It is now urgent that the Unionist leaders recognise again that the only way in which the concerns of those they seek to represent can be addressed is by constructive discussion and not by threats and violence."

Leading article, page 13

## Police action a blow to altering image

By Paul Valley

The police in Northern Ireland yesterday came under concerted criticism for their lack of intervention in hundreds of cases of roadside intimidation throughout the Province during Monday's strike.

The volume of the complaints about the activity of members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary represents a considerable setback for the attempts of recent months to alter the way the police are perceived by the Catholic minority.

Yesterday the deputy leader of the SDLP, Mr Seamus Mallon, said that his party had so far received several hundred reports from Protestants as well as Catholics about the refusal of the police to assist them to cross picket lines and barricades many of which were manned by men in black hoods and paramilitary uniforms.

Local newspapers also contained substantial documents

tion of cases of harassment by pickets while police looked on. Mr Mallon said he intends to raise the matter in the House of Commons on Thursday and will present a dossier of the complaints to the Chief Constable of the RUC, Sir John Hermon.

"What I want to know is whether the police stood by and watched as a result of individual decisions by officers on the spot, which seems unlikely, or whether they were acting under instructions from either the Chief Constable or the British Government. I will also be asking why the army was not deployed to keep the roads clear," he said.

"Whatever hope there was of people being convinced that there was a new attitude within the police force as a result of the Anglo-Irish agreement has been dashed by this abdication of their responsibility."

Spokesmen for the RUC Continued on page 2, col 8

## Ex-UN chief accused by Jews

By Our Foreign Staff

The World Jewish Congress yesterday accused the former United Nations Secretary-General, Dr Kurt Waldheim, of being a member of the Nazi "brown shirts" and later serving in a Wehrmacht unit which shipped more than 40,000 Jews to death camps during the Second World War.

Dr Waldheim, an Austrian presidential candidate, dismissed the charges as nonsense. It was an attempt to discredit his election campaign. "I was never in a unit which had anything to do with the SS."

Dr Simon Wiesenthal, the famous Nazi-hunter, said the allegations were without foundation. Dr Waldheim's record had been checked by the secret services of every major power before he had been permitted to become UN chief.

Mr Eli Rosenbaum, general counsel for the World Jewish Congress, said the organization had documents showing that Dr Waldheim joined the Nazi Student Union on April 1, 1938, less than three weeks after Austria was annexed by Germany.

He said the documents also showed that Dr Waldheim joined the paramilitary SA (Sturmabteilung) in November 1938 and remained a member until he entered military service with the Wehrmacht on August 15, 1939.

Mr Rosenbaum said Dr Waldheim served in a Wehrmacht unit which was involved in the deportation of Jews from Greece to Auschwitz in Poland and was in Yugoslavia during Nazi massacres of civilians.

Dr Waldheim, aged 67, said he served in the Balkans during the Second World War but denied any knowledge of Nazi atrocities. "These matters were handled by other commands, certainly not by the staff I was attached to."

The World Jewish Congress president, Mr Edgar Bronfman, said Dr Waldheim had "engaged in one of the most elaborate deceptions of our time". It would have been "inconceivable that Waldheim would have been elected UN Secretary-General had the facts been known". Dr Waldheim was UN chief from 1972 to 1982.

Prime beneficiaries will be those which protested loudest. Essex, for example, will get an extra £16.85 million, Hampshire £15.4 million, and Hertfordshire £11.8 million.

They lost out in the annual grant settlement because the Government switched money to the inner cities.

Treasurers in the shires are likely to say the announcement is too late.

Rebels reprieve, page 2



Dr Waldheim: an attempt to discredit his campaign.

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TV slot, page 5

## Death of MP adds to Tory poll tests

The Government faces two more by-election tests after the death yesterday of Mr John Spence, Conservative MP for Ryedale, Yorkshire, and the announcement that another Tory, Mr Matthew Parris, is to resign his West Derbyshire seat to become a television presenter.

Mr Spence, who died aged 65 in York hospital, had a majority of 16,142 and Mr Parris one of 15,325.

The Government is already facing a by-election in Fulham where the Conservative majority was 4,789 over Labour.

TV slot, page 5



## Women in prison 'learning crime'

By Stephen Goodwin  
Political Staff

Women in Holloway jail, north London, are being left with too much spare time to learn the tricks of the criminal trade, because of cuts in the prison education service, MPs were told yesterday.

Classes at Holloway are running at only a quarter of capacity while prisoners are forced to spend long hours in their cells, the Commons select committee on education heard.

The problem stems from the lack of officers to escort women.

The crisis at Holloway, where about 300 women are detained, was explained by Mr Paul Cavadinio, senior information officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro).

During a week of day and evening tuition, the prison should run 90 classes. But Mr Cavadinio told the committee, investigating education in prisons, that last year classes were running at about a third of capacity.

Nacro wants the Government to introduce legislation to guarantee all prisoners access to education in jail.

Members of the Royal Family are backing a new effort to reward excellence in the prison service.

The Butler Trust, named after the late R.A. Butler, has raised nearly £300,000 since July. Princess Anne, the Trust's patron, will be making the first presentation on March 17.

The award winners include a woman whose good influence is reflected in the letters he receives from former detainees of a youth custody centre.

The top prize, a travel scholarship for up to six weeks, will go to an education co-ordinator who encouraged prisoners to breed fish for export to the Third World.

## Heath calls for open debate to stop city alienation

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Edward Heath said last night that the deep alienation of the inner cities could lead to social breakdown.

"Why obey the rules if obedience offers one nothing?" he asked.

The former Prime Minister said in a Birmingham lecture to the Employment Institute that it was no coincidence that the most depressed regions were those with the highest crime rates.

"If our society cannot offer the hope of a job, decent housing, or a reasonable standard of living, how can we expect allegiance to society, loyalty to its institutions and obedience to its rules?" he continued.

Alienation, which was now as deep in the inner cities as anywhere in America, was inevitable in such circumstances. He added: "Alienation brings with it the prospect of crime and social breakdown."

Having attacked the "sterile trench warfare between rival ideologies", Mr Heath called for an open debate about the level of resources and manpower required for "a deliberate and purposeful strategy to recreate a modern British industry."

He said: "It should be a debate involving all those who have an open mind, who are prepared to abandon dogma and construct a programme that will command national consent."

"If our people believe that their voice has been heard and listened to, if as a result of an open discussion they do not feel that their interests have been sacrificed for those of privileged groups in our society, they will respond."

In a speech which reflected some of the themes recently

addressed by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, and Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Heath called for a combined European approach to the competitive problems now facing manufacturing industry.

He warned that the largest firms, such as B.L., should not be neglected in the drive to assist small business.

It was "indefensible" to offer control of B.L. to foreign firms without initially allowing British bids, he said, adding: "It sticks in my gut to hand this central British industry over to the Americans without even exploring the alternatives."

He said: "We must learn to manage great enterprises of this size for ourselves and to make a success of them, not run and hide and resign ourselves to our inability to manage as successfully as the Americans and the Japanese."

"There is a lack of ambition in Britain today that alarms me. A lack of will and a lack of drive. An assumption of automatic failure. This mood must be replaced by one of new resolve."

He also endorsed the idea of a ministry of employment and training, which would tackle the problems of training school leavers for real jobs, "one of our chief national failures", and urged concerted help for the long-term unemployed.

Mr Heath said: "Modern capital is more than just physical objects: people are our most important resource. And we must invest in people; we must create docks and railways."



The athlete Shirley Strong on a machine which uses traction to treat back problems, at the Sports Medicine Action exhibition, now on at Kensington Exhibition Centre, London. With her are Mr Tony Coombs, from the equipment company, and Ade Mafe and his coach.

### The teachers' dispute

## Schools face more action on duties

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Industrial action will continue in many schools even though the teachers' pay dispute is officially over.

The biggest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers, has not signed the deal prepared by the conciliation service, Acas.

So half the teaching force will still refuse to carry out so-called voluntary duties, such as cover for absent colleagues, attending parents' and staff meetings, and taking part in activities outside school hours such as clubs and sports.

Many parents will still be unable to talk to teachers about their children's education, and will not receive school reports.

Children will continue to miss lessons in schools where the NUT members' refusal to cover for sick colleagues means that a class goes unsupervised.

A head will often then decide to send pupils home for all or part of the day. But the teachers' strikes are to be called off. To that extent the pay deal of 6.9 per cent,

rising to 8.5 per cent by the end of this month, will work.

Schools have been closed down, sometimes for as much as two weeks, because of lightning strike action by the NUT and the second biggest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

It is expected that many members of the NAS/UNT will join their NUT colleagues in refusing to go back to carrying out "voluntary" duties, despite new paragraphs in the settlement agreed by the Burnham negotiating committee on Monday night.

NAS members who work for 70 education authorities which have sent out letters threatening teachers with loss of money for refusing voluntary duties consider themselves to be in dispute, and will not return to normal duties.

Mr Noel Lawn, head of St John's Roman Catholic comprehensive in the outer London borough of Newham, said that his staff of 42, half of

whom are NUT and half NAS/UNT, would not go back to "voluntary" working. He has to send children home every day because of refusal to cover, and he expects that to continue.

Yesterday he sent home a class of 17 pupils in the morning and two classes of 20 and 10 pupils in the afternoon.

On Monday, he was forced to send home classes of 30 and 28 pupils in the morning, and a class of 26 in the afternoon.

Because the local authority employers knew they were facing continued industrial action, they tried to pin down the unions which did sign.

The unions confirmed that they would withdraw all instructions for industrial action "so that the position of each organization reverts to that in force before the dispute began".

They agreed to take such steps as they could to ensure an atmosphere of calm was established in schools. Most important, they agreed that while the Acas talks on the

long-term problems of the profession took place, no action would be taken on voluntary duties. That clause is likely to be breached by the NAS.

Now that the pay dispute is officially over, the teachers' unions can concentrate on talks about salary restructuring, a new definition of teachers' duties, and appraisal of performance.

That is the second strand to the settlement and talks are due to begin on Friday under an independent panel chaired by Sir John Wood.

The panel has six months to come up with a package of reforms.

A teachers' association was excluded from a meeting to endorse the pay deal yesterday because of recriminations between the unions over the settlement of the dispute.

The Professional Association of Teachers, a no-strike union with 42,000 members, was forced to leave the meeting by representatives of the NUT.

## Quaker is vetoed as bishop

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

Canon Paul Oestreicher, the churchman recently nominated for a bishopric in Wellington, New Zealand, has been vetoed for the position on the apparent grounds that he is a Quaker.

His nomination was passed by a majority of New Zealand bishops but failed to gain the required approval of the standing committees of the seven New Zealand dioceses.

The bishops had entered a reservation concerning Canon Oestreicher's simultaneous membership of the Anglican Church and the Society of Friends, but this was satisfactorily answered by the vicar general of the Wellington diocese.

Nevertheless, it appears to have influenced the standing committees.

Canon Oestreicher is a member of the General Synod of the Church of England.

### Additives ban

Sainsbury is to remove many additives from its products because of growing consumer concern.

Increasingly the RUC is being forced into a position where it can draw comfort from neither section of the society it policies.

Its traditional loyalist supporters can no longer be relied upon. On Monday two more police officers were forced from their homes in Lurgan after attacks from their Loyalist neighbours during the strike. While Catholics who received no help in their attempts to get to work will see in that confirmation of all their old fears.

Later the Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr Cahal Daly, spoke encouragingly of the growing numbers of Catholics joining the RUC which is still 90 per cent Protestant in its manpower. He said that the RUC was increasing in credibility among ordinary Catholics in the Province.

But the Anglo-Irish agreement has brought new pressure to bear on the police. Increasingly the RUC is being forced into a position where it can draw comfort from neither section of the society it policies.

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## Mother's milk worries eased

By Our Environment Correspondent

Pesticide residues have been found in babies' body fat and in breast milk. Government scientists reported yesterday. They added that the already small amounts had dropped to levels too minute to be worrying.

"Breast-feeding is safe", Dr Peter Stanley, chairman of the Ministry of Agriculture's working party on pesticide residues, said yesterday.

Dr Stanley, who has charge of the ministry's wildlife and pest laboratory at Slough, Berkshire, said that the presence of pesticides in human tissues and milk was not surprising as residues could be found in most foods.

Separate surveys of the body fat of babies aged be-

tween five days and three months, and of breast milk, had shown residue levels to be lower in 1983 than four years earlier.

The report was one of a series by Civil Servants and government scientists on the presence of contaminants in food.

Some chemicals, such as organochlorines, which are used in compounds against farm pests ranging from rodents to moulds, are remarkably persistent. They can pass through the food chain in minute quantities which can rise if chemical sprays are not used properly on farms.

Steering Group on Food Surveillance, Paper 16 (Stationery Office, £5).

## Collection scheme to fight VAT gold fraud

By Stewart Tendler  
Crime Reporter

A special security certificate is to be issued by Customs officials to gold dealers such as Johnson Matthey Bankers as part of new measures announced yesterday to combat bullion fraud.

The measures, which come into effect on April 1, will force all dealers to participate in a voluntary value added tax collection scheme.

Under the scheme, dealers will pay VAT direct to Customs and Excise rather than to the traders who sell them gold.

Until now, paying VAT direct has been discretionary and dealers, including JMB, have sometimes opted out, leaving open the risk of fraud by gold vendors who disappear with the VAT.

From the start of the new financial year any dealer belonging to the scheme must pay all VAT direct to Customs. Such dealers have previously had no authorization, apart from a letter from local VAT officers saying they were involved.

They will now be issued with a certificate of authorization by customs officials so that traders can be sure that the VAT will be paid direct to Customs.

In the Commons yesterday, Mr Brian Sedgemore, Labour MP for Hackney, South, named Israel as a possible haven for Britons wanted for gold smuggling or for bullion fraud.

Mr Sedgemore, who has campaigned to get details of the JMB collapse made public, called on Mrs Thatcher to ask the Israeli prime minister to close the country's frontiers to fraud suspects.

He also asked the Prime Minister to call on Israel to deport to Britain a Leeds man wanted for questioning by Customs investigators.

Mr Sedgemore tabled a written question to Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking him whether any staff, directors or shareholders of Johnson Matthey PLC or JMB, "had any knowledge of or gained benefits directly or indirectly by virtue of gold smuggling and bullion frauds since 1980".

Below zero temperatures had gradually muffled the sound of Britain's best known timepiece so that MPs had begun to ask questions in the House.

Mr Robert Key, Conservative MP for Salisbury, wanted to know when the chim-

### Newspaper revolution

## Maxwell demands job cuts

By Ronald Faux

Mr Robert Maxwell yesterday demanded 330 redundancies at his two Scottish newspapers the *Daily Record* and the *Sunday Mail* in Glasgow.

In a letter to the 1,000 staff Mr Maxwell gave the workers until March 21 to find the required volunteers for redundancy.

The two titles are expected to contribute £7 million to Mirror Group profits next year.

He said two new companies, the *Daily Record* and *Sunday Mail* (1986) Ltd and the *British Newspaper Printing Corporation* (Scotland) Ltd would be formed and jobs offered to those who were retained.

Mr Maxwell said that on February 13 he had proposed a deal which would have guaranteed job security and a 10 per cent salary increase in

return for changes in working practice—principally the acceptance of the five-day week without a change of hours—which would have reduced costs and enabled the company to produce the Irish edition of the *Daily Mirror* in colour.

The alternative, Mr Maxwell said, was made clear from the outset: substantial staff cuts and economies in running costs.

"Regrettably, that is the course which the National Union of Journalists and Sogat '82 have chosen to follow. My offer, therefore, is withdrawn and I have abandoned plans to produce the *Daily Mirror*'s Irish edition from Glasgow.

The deal for workers would include two weeks' pay for every year's service, with a limit of 20 years and £155 a week.

In the new conditions in the

newspaper industry, he said, no company however solid it may appear to be, was safe.

He pointed out that Mr Rupert Murdoch's company, News International, was producing four national titles with a weekly circulation of 35 million, with 1,500 staff.

"We are producing two titles with a total weekly circulation of about 3.5 million. If we cannot compete on a cost structure with Mr Murdoch we cannot stay in business."

"I had hoped that we could see off Mr Murdoch and Mr Shah by increased efficiency and the elimination of unnecessary costs. As that route is no longer available to us, we must take the other."

Last night journalists on the two newspapers pledged their determination to oppose any redundancies which, they said, were unnecessary.

## Today gets off to a shaky start

By Robin Young

Yesterday *Today* was postponed until tomorrow for many readers who were unable to buy a copy of Mr Eddy Shah's colour tabloid newspaper.

Late printing, trouble with new technology, and weaknesses in distribution were blamed for the newspaper's non-arrival in areas of England and Wales. The paper is not yet distributed in Scotland.

A spokesman for Mr Shah's company, News UK, claimed that the 1.1 million copies printed had sold out by mid-morning.

It had been hoped to in-

crease the print run to 1.5 million copies or more by bringing forward editorial deadlines, but in the event Mr Shah delayed production by more than an hour for a colour picture of the Queen arriving in Canberra, Australia.

Further hold-ups were caused by a failure of the editorial computer system. Printing in Manchester was interrupted by several web breaks as the paper ran through the presses.

*Today's* rather murky colour pictures were upstaged by other popular national newspapers, particularly the *Daily Express*.

The new tabloid's front page news story, billed as an exclusive, was regarded with scepticism, since a similar story about a second Soviet spy at GCHQ in Cheltenham appeared in *The Sunday Times* last January.

Newsagents in most of Greater Manchester, Sheffield, and Merseyside were without supplies, and in central London many newsagents displayed signs saying "No *Today*".

Mr Shah said: "Any newspaper takes time to evolve. It will take a few weeks before I can make any judgement on our success."

Bad weather played havoc with the great clock even before 1947. In 1900 a February snow storm stopped it for eight hours, and in 1928 the east face froze over stopping the minute hand.

bell, has gradually become frozen hard over the current extended period of severe weather and has lost its usual resilience. The effect of this is to curtail the sound of the last strike," Sir George said.

For the Big Ben's chim-

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## Winter chill takes toll of Big Ben's chimes

By Stephen Goodwin

The onset of winter weather should return the chimes of Big Ben to their former familiar sound.

Below zero temperatures had gradually muffled the sound of Britain's best known timepiece so that MPs had begun to ask questions in the House.

Mr Robert Key, Conserva-

tive MP for Salisbury, wanted to know when the chim-

bell, has gradually become frozen hard over the current extended period of severe weather and has lost its usual resilience. The effect of this is to curtail the sound of the last strike," Sir George said.

For the Big Ben's chim-

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## 'Cloak and dagger fake cash deals of FBI agent and arms dealer'

A former FBI agent and an international arms dealer were caught with nearly \$300,000 in counterfeit United States money, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

William Herrmann, a US citizen, and David Bizzell, holder of an Irish passport and a South African resident, told detectives when they were arrested in May last year that they were working on behalf of the US Government.

Mr James Curtis, for the prosecution, said: "Their defences are more suited to a Len Deighton novel than everyday life."

"They contain such exotic concepts as the FBI, the CIA, the mafia, multi-million dollar counterfeit deals, illicit arms sales on a massive scale from the USA to Iran, the infiltration of criminal activities by undercover agents, alleged threats of violent retribution, and more."

He said detectives saw Mr Bizzell hand over some of the counterfeit \$100 bills to Mr

Herrmann, "in a cloak-and-dagger fashion", in Gloucester Road, west London.

Mr Curtis said Mr Herrmann told the police that he was acting on instructions from the FBI in Washington to infiltrate a \$100 million counterfeit currency operation organized by the mafia in Italy.

Mr Bizzell had at first claimed that the police had planted the notes. Then he said he was working with Mr Herrmann only to ingratiate himself with the US authorities in the hope of a pending prosecution, arising out of an Iranian arms deal, being dropped.

Mr Curtis described their explanations as "a criminally sophisticated insurance policy".

He said: "The clever thing about their defence is that each is based on a framework of background facts which can be shown to be true."

Mr Herrmann has worked as an agent or informer for the

FBI and Mr Bizzell has been involved in an abortive secret US-Iranian heavy arms deal.

Mr Bizzell, aged 42, of Wetherby Gardens, Chelsea, west London, denies two charges of having counterfeit currency with intent, two of having counterfeit currency and one of delivering counterfeit currency.

Mr Herrmann, aged 50, who was staying at the Forum Hotel in Cromwell Road, west London, denies one charge of having counterfeit currency with intent and one of having it in his possession.

Mr Curtis said the Crown would call members of the FBI and other US authorities whom Mr Herrmann had named when he was arrested.

"Even if you are tempted to accept they were acting as good citizens, it is no defence for playing a serious, possibly deadly, game of cowboys and Indians on British soil in return for favours from the US Government", Mr Curtis said. The case continues today.

## Royal guide to being classy but sexy



By Suzy Menkes, Fashion Editor

"My aim is to design a swimsuit that is sexy, but not vulgar," says Princess Stephanie of Monaco—a royal recruit to the fashion world.

The younger daughter of Prince Rainier and Princess Grace was in London yesterday to launch her collection of beachwear called, appropriately enough, Pool Position.

"I have made swimwear that can be worn all day—to the beach in the morning and then out to dinner in the evening," says Princess Stephanie, who wore one of her own ruffled and strapless swimsuits under a skimpy black skirt at her twenty-first birthday celebrations a month ago. The collection includes stretch velvet and latex separates.

Princess Stephanie started her fashion

career at Dior in Paris, where she worked in the couture studio with four other stylists, including Alix de la Combe, her partner in Pool Position.

The colourful swimsuits, cut very high at the thigh and clinging to the curves, are now on sale at Harrods in London and around the world.

Princess Stephanie who had just flown in from a promotional trip around the United States, sees no contradiction between her provocative designs and her Royal status. Nor does she feel that her contemporary, the young Princess of Wales, should have to dress in a sedate regal style.

"That idea is quite out of date," she says. "I am a princess of the twentieth century. Of course I have to dress suitably for official engagements, but what I wear in private is my affair."

To launch her shapely beach look,

Princess Stephanie wore a discreet dove grey Chanel suit, with jany gift buttons.

Her father, who vetoed his daughter's previous choice of career as an international fashion model, supports her new venture.

"He was very unsure about the swimsuits to start with, but now he is pleased that I am making a success of it," she says.

What is the dividing line between the sexy and the vulgar when there are just a few square centimetres of stretch fabric to play with?

"If I put a gold collar on a black swimsuit, that would make it vulgar immediately," she says. "It all comes down to the cut and shape. I learned a lot from my apprenticeship in haute couture."

Photograph: Suresh Karadia

## Bodyguard offer to travellers abroad

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

Thomas Cook, the travel agency, is offering a bodyguard service for businessmen involved in delicate deals abroad.

The company foresees an increasing demand for personal security, along with a need for safe hotels and meeting places in troubled countries.

Cook's would refer any businessman or firm needing a bodyguard or secure meeting place, where sensitive negotiations could take place, to British specialists who are able to make arrangements throughout the world.

Mr John McEwan, managing director of Thomas Cook, said: "Our 1,500 branches are in 143 countries, and they can keep us in touch over local developments that could be of concern to travellers."

"It is a fact of life that things are not getting any easier. But we are fully prepared to get a client into any country, or any situation."

He said costs would have to be agreed with the specialists, and added: "No prices can be quoted yet for this new service, if only because requirements could vary so much. But fairly obviously, bodyguards can hardly come cheap."

Cook's, the biggest British travel agency, already has a service advising clients on how to live and operate safely while abroad. For long postings, advice is available on how families remaining in Britain can be looked after.

At some Cook's offices a health screening service is offered allowing travellers to record medical details, such as blood group and history of illnesses, on microfilm, about the size of a credit card, which can be carried on journeys abroad.

## Extra £5m to help drug addicts

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Health authorities in England are being given new instructions and an extra £5 million to help them to treat the rapidly increasing number of hard-drug addicts.

The Whitehall move comes after a highly critical report by the Commons Social Services Select Committee last summer, which said that treatment and rehabilitation services for the estimated 100,000 addicts were "woefully inadequate".

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, responded by promising an extra £5 million, and yesterday he released details of a circular on services for drug misusers, sent to health chiefs, which explains how the money will be distributed and what facilities should be provided.

Cash will be sent direct to regional health authorities, with each receiving a share in proportion to its population of those aged 15 to 34.

A national drug advisory service, made up of small specialist teams, will be set up to visit the areas worst affected and advise them.

While the precise pattern of services for treating addicts will be decided locally, Mr Fowler has set out detailed guidelines which he expects all health authorities to follow.

The circular says every region should provide at least one drug problem team, based at a drug dependency unit and made up of a consultant psychiatrist, junior medical staff, social workers and trained nurses who deal almost exclusively with drug addicts.

District health authorities are urged to provide a range of educational and counselling services for addicts as well as treatment facilities.

The circular says family doctors should be encouraged to play a large role in caring and treating addicts.

"An increasing proportion of misusers of drugs are women. Consideration should be given in the planning of services to the special needs of female drug misusers, and especially pregnant women or women with young children", the circular adds.

## Protest to halt opium poppies

By Richard Evans  
Lobby Reporter

The head of a Commons inquiry into hard drugs is to protest to the Home Office over plans to grow 200 acres of opium poppies in Britain.

Sir Edward Gardner, Conservative chairman of the home affairs select committee, fears the poppy crop could end up in the hands of criminals who would convert it into heroin.

Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture, confirmed in a parliamentary answer that there were plans for commercial trials with a view to producing oil.

Sir Edward, whose committee will publish its final report next week, said yesterday he intended to raise the issue with Mr David Mellor, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office.

Sir Edward wants to know if the Home Office is aware of the plans, whether the security implications have been appreciated, and what steps are being taken to make sure the crop does not fall into the wrong hands.

## Guitarist fails to halt group

Alan Lancaster, the bass guitarist with the rock group Status Quo, failed in the High Court yesterday to stop his two partners performing without him as Status Quo.

Mr Justice Knox said that if Mr Lancaster's partners, Francis Rossi and Rick Parfitt, were not allowed to release their latest record album, the group's most valuable asset, the name Status Quo, would lapse.

The judge rejected Mr Lancaster's application for an interim injunction preventing Mr Rossi and Mr Parfitt from performing or recording anywhere in the world as Status Quo without him.

Issues involving the partnership and what money is due to Mr Lancaster, who lives in Australia, will be tried at a later date. The judge said there was a "very high probability" that at the trial the dissolution of the group would be ordered.

The judge's provisional ruling will allow a West German television appearance by Mr Rossi and Mr Parfitt to go ahead.

Their last public appearance was at the Live Aid concert at Wembley.

## Bridge sale

A 200-year-old toll bridge and cottage at Whitney, near Hay-on-Wye, Powys, which comes with a tax-free toll income of about £15,000, has been put up for sale at around £100,000.

## Wren woke up to find man by bed, court told

A Wren woke to find a rating kneeling beside her bed, a court martial in Plymouth was told yesterday.

The sailor had a cardigan pulled over his head, covering his face, and one of his hands was under the duvet.

Lucy Clayton, aged 20, said: "I was completely stunned and asked him what he was doing. He just grunted and told me to hang on a minute because he was out of breath."

She added that the sailor was obviously drunk. He had grunted replies to her questions while kneeling with his

head resting on the mattress. She was too frightened to scream or struggle and tried to talk to him.

Finally, the rating stood up and staggered out of the room. "I was still in a state of shock and pushed my bed against the door", the Wren said.

Seaman Robin Smith, aged 19, a Royal Navy cook, pleaded not guilty to drunkenness and indecent assault at the HMS Neptune base at Faslane, Scotland, early one morning last August.

The case continues today.

## 'Dial now, pay later' public telephone trial

A pay telephone system which does not use cash or plastic cards went on trial in Bristol and Bath yesterday.

The British Telecom AccountCall service is being tested in 700 push-button telephone boxes. If successful, it will be extended.

The caller keys in the figures 197, then a personal account number, a security code and the telephone number.

Calls are charged to home or business accounts with the main bill, giving the date, the number dialled and the cost. The normal pay telephone rate of 10p per unit is charged, plus 20p, making the service cheaper than reverse charge and credit card calls. Compas can get separate statements for individual account holders.

## Father 'said dead girl was abroad'

A dental lecturer accused of murdering his adopted daughter told the police that the girl was abroad, Leeds Crown Court was told yesterday.

Samson Perera, aged 43, of Stijwell Drive, Sandal, Wakefield, said he had taken Nilanthe Perera, aged 13, to his brother in Sicily, the first stage of a journey to Sri Lanka, the court was told. He denies murdering the girl, and obstructing a coroner.

Detective Inspector Tom Hodgson told the court that when questioned about human bones found in his Leeds University laboratory, Mr Perera replied: "The bones you found in my laboratory were specimens I brought from Sri Lanka."

The trial was adjourned

## Pubs lack taste, Ronay reports

By Alan Hamilton

Egon Ronay, the gourmet and arbiter of taste buds, yesterday named the Ashcroft Inn at Bridgewater, Somerset, as his Pub of the Year for what his guide describes as a "bewildering" selection of good food.

Mr Peter Milne, who owns the inn with his wife and son, received his winner's trophy at a lunch in a West End hotel, where he served his own version of lamb burgundy, one of the bar meals which so impressed the judges.

As landlord and owner of a free house, Mr Milne is exempt from the usual criticisms voiced by Mr Ronay in the introduction to the new edition of his public house guide, also published yesterday.

day, which concentrates on food and accommodation rather than drink.

Mr Ronay says that the general standard of pub food has improved in recent years, but public houses do not yet satisfactorily fill the gap between top-bracket restaurants and mass catering. They simply do not occupy the place of the French bistro.

One of the main reasons for the poor standards of food that still exist in many British pubs could be lack of taste and palate in the top management of most breweries, Mr Ronay says.

"This lack of taste filters down and manifests itself in general inferiority."

While acknowledging overall improvements away from

the pickled eggs and shrunken sausages of 20 years ago, Mr Ronay says the picture is still patchy.

"Bread is better. The desolate picture of chips is now relieved here and there—we have found notably good chips in Yorkshire. Tables are now generally available, so fewer people are forced to adopt the British-vertical-posture for eating. Vegetarian dishes can be found in most good pub bars."

But, Mr Ronay says, menus are still absurdly over-long, forcing the use of convenience foods.

Women's lavatories have greatly improved, but men's are still often primitive.

Egon Ronay's Guinness Pub Guide (Automobile Association, £4.50).

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# Province reputation damaged by strike

## ULSTER

The whole country could now see how tragic and totally counterproductive the previous day's action in Northern Ireland had been. Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in a statement to the Commons.

Television pictures of some disgraceful incidents had been shown all over the world and would do great damage to the reputation of the province. The House would also have seen MPs making common cause with people in paramilitary dress. He recalled that the leaders of the two main Unionist parties, Mr James Moynihan and the Rev Ian Paisley, had stated it was to be a peaceful and voluntary demonstration and that there should be no road blocks or intimidation of those going to work.

In the event there was widespread obstruction, intimidation and some violence during the day culminating in serious disorder in Belfast at night. A considerable number of people succeeded in getting to work but many factories were seriously affected.

After paying tribute to the security forces and RUC, Mr King said there had been a number of allegations that the police did not take action when required. The Chief Constable was preparing a full report on the situation. To indicate the scale of the workload the RUC faced, there were some 655 roadblocks in the province of which 441 were cleared.

There were in addition some 80 barricades and demonstrations which caused considerable disruption in a number of towns. There were 57 arrests and the names of 184 people noted to proceed by way of summons. Sixty-five plastic baton rounds were fired; 47 policemen were injured.

At night a number of petrol bombs were thrown; over 20 shots were fired in three fire-arms attacks on the police during disturbances in Loyalist areas. (Conservative shouts of "Disgraceful!")

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said they shared the minister's abhorrence of violence and intimidation which further alienated the sympathy of people in Great Britain from the cause it was apparently designed to promote.

If the protest was arranged to demonstrate the strength of feeling in Northern Ireland against the agreement it failed as an indication since they did not know how many people participated voluntarily and how many were responding to intimidation. If it transpired that the violence and road blocks were planned, would proceedings be initiated against those responsible?

The minister had referred to allegations that police officers had failed to intervene. When the Chief Constable had reported, would Mr King report again to the House? Would an inquiry take place into reports that off-duty members of the UDR were at barriers?

Would Mr King invite party leaders of Ulster to meet under his chairmanship and seek a consensus which would isolate the men of violence on both sides?

Mr King said this was manifestly not a dignified and voluntary protest. It indicated considerable planning and the Chief Constable would want to investigate all aspects.

Any evidence of indifferent policing should be brought to the attention of the Chief Constable and it would be investigated.

He went on: I hope we can get discussions going. The Prime Minister put some sensible proposals to the leaders of the Unionist parties. These could have provided a way forward but were repudiated although we have not yet received any official indication to that effect. I will do what I can to seek ways in which discussions can now start. It is the only way. Violence will not succeed.

Griffiths Show more understanding for police

and Wolff and Short? Why were they staying away from work on Monday? Mr King said it was the Government's strong hope and desire that Northern Ireland should remain part of the United Kingdom. One of the most offensive things about the protest was the implication that somehow they were seeking to undermine the position of Northern Ireland. The purpose of the Anglo-Irish agreement was to reassure Unionists about the validity of the position of the majority and to get the agreement of the Republic firm in international law that there could be no change in that position without majority consent. Even in the face of that, there were those who refused to accept it, although it was article one of the agreement.

Mr King said he was not sure Mr Powell's views were shared by his parliamentary colleagues. The Government was anxious to see a basis of administration in Northern Ireland which was widely acceptable to both communities. The Anglo-Irish agreement was designed to encourage that.

Sir Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C) said it was one thing to make splendid statements about not yielding to intimidation. But at the end of the day, it depended upon the courage and resolution of the security forces, particularly the RUC. Would Mr King show just a little more understanding of the human position of police officers who were shot in the back by the violent minority and who no longer had the consent of the majority yet were gassed by their chief constable and did not get from his office the support to which they were entitled in the grave circumstances the country now faced?

Mr King said he deeply respected the last sentence of Sir Eldon's remarks. The RUC was aware that he (Mr King) had the greatest admiration for them as a professional police force.

I am well aware of the concern Sir Eldon has about the particular matter of consultation and the rights of the Police Federation in Northern Ireland. That is under discussion.

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) a former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said Monday's day of protest, and in some cases near insurrection, together with the plans projected for the weeks and months ahead to culminate in July, could only seriously weaken the link between Northern Ireland and Britain. (Cheers.)

It was no good ignoring the situation. The Government should now talk with the Government in Dublin as to what would happen if the link really was to be stretched to breaking point. Mr King said it was precisely because of the Government's concern that Mrs

Thatcher and her met Unionist leaders last Tuesday. The Unionists had attended expecting a door to be slammed in their face. When they came out they said the door had been broken. It was clear that a door had been opened. The tragedy was that when they got back to Belfast, somebody else decided to slam the door in their face.

Mr John Hume (Foyle, SDLP): Although the Anglo-Irish agreement has now been in place for three months, it has not done a single bit of harm to a single citizen in Northern Ireland and the only damage done has been self-inflicted such as the damage done yesterday to wide sections of the community.

Mr King: So far from not suffering any damage or harm, there are already signs of the benefits that can come from this agreement. I think any independent Unionist must take comfort from the switch of votes away from the party supporting violence to the constitutional nationalist party.

Mr Ivor Stannbrook (Orpington, C): If we go on like this, with the majority feeling themselves threatened and some taking desperate measures and Mr King condemning them in the strongest terms as he has, we are going to get into a situation where even the minority feels threatened and the situation will get far worse than now.

Does that not point to the fact that what was done in the name of the agreement was a blunder of the first magnitude? Mr King: I pay tribute to the number of people who, often with considerable inconvenience and courage, made sure they were not going to be intimidated. The vast majority in so many areas got to work in spite of the difficulties.

# Row over help with heating for the elderly

## SOCIAL SERVICES

During a heated and protracted wrangle between the Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, over heating allowances for old people during the recent cold weather, Mrs Thatcher defended the Government's record and said that, in fact, what Mr Kinnock did not like was the extent of the help available.

The question was posed by Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) who said it was a matter of the deepest concern that many old people had died and were still dying of hypothermia during the bitterly cold winter.

How can the Government and the Prime Minister stand idly by (he asked) and watch these poor people in cold, unheated rooms waiting for approaching death? Are the rich and wealthy members of this Government going to blame everybody else but themselves when everyone in the country knows exactly who is to blame for the deaths?

Mrs Thatcher: Spending on help with heating has increased dramatically since 1978. Then it was £30 million. Now it is £400 million, an increase of £370 million in the form of severe weather payments available in almost all of the 500 DHSS area offices.

Mr Kinnock asked Mrs Thatcher to join him and other MPs in applying the initiative of the Labour Party in providing a thousand survival kits to old people they considered to be most at risk from the cold.

But the Government must issue urgent heating allowances. Will the Prime Minister (he asked) change the system of helping with heating costs so that we never again experience a winter in which the poor freeze to death for want of help with heating bills?

Mrs Thatcher said help had greatly exceeded anything given by the Labour Government. The Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr Norman Fowler) had arranged for massive advertising in the national press on the availability of extra help with fuel bills. This was being supplemented by great local effort.

# Row over help with heating for the elderly

Mr Kinnock said the figure of £140 million was somewhat misleading. It should be compared with the £1.5 million denied to old age pensioners as a result of changing the formula for calculating old age pensions.

The system of aid with heating cost should be better, simpler and more generous so there would not be another winter of disconnections.

Mrs Thatcher said the severe weather payments were paid retrospectively. What Mr Kinnock does not like (she added) is the extent of the help available.

Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Littleborough and Saddleworth, C) Will the Prime Minister concede that the last Labour Government did very little for old age pensioners and that it was the last Labour Government which slashed away the Christmas bonus which the Conservative Government had introduced. The Tories reintroduced the bonus.

How does she consider the Labour Party can accuse us as they have today when they were such a disgrace to themselves in the past?

Mrs Thatcher: I cannot improve on the excellent way in which Mr Dickens puts the case. I hope that MPs will also remember that the system of helping with heating costs so that we never again experience a winter in which the poor freeze to death for want of help with heating bills?

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, Lab): In the past heating payments varied widely. Why are they based on the individual rather than on the cost of heating?

Mrs Thatcher: Last year's rate was not satisfactory, so it was a matter now for discretion and that should be able to give the best use of limited funds to have.

# Joseph condemns NUT behaviour as indefensible

## EDUCATION

The behaviour of the NUT was condemned as appalling and indefensible by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, during a question time in the Commons.

His comments came in reply to a question by Mr Mark Carlisle (Warrington South, C) who had asked: Does he agree that the behaviour of the leadership of the NUT has shown yet again they are prepared to do damage to children's education and harm to teachers as a body?

Is not the time coming to remind individual teachers who are concerned about their individual professional standards and who are anxious to obtain higher salaries, that they can join other unions instead?

Sir Keith Joseph: I agree that the behaviour of the NUT seems to me to be appalling. They are evidently willing to take the money that has been negotiated by the other unions and employers and yet to continue to disrupt education.

They are standing in the way of reform in education which is needed and I regard that as a totally indefensible position by the NUT.

The exchanges were opened by Mr Sean Hughes (Knowsley South, Lab) who asked: What State makes of the level of public pressure for greater spending on education?

Sir Keith Joseph: I have no doubt that there is considerable public pressure for higher standards in education and for the best possible return on the resources invested in the education service. The Government will continue to work towards these aims.

Flannery: Teachers embittered and angry

Mr Hughes: In view of the Minister of State's recent statement that one of the reasons for a lack of increase in public expenditure in education is a lack of public pressure, will the Secretary of State now tell us the truth: Was the money there when he told us there were insufficient funds to pay the teachers what they wanted, or if the funds were not there, what is the point of what the Minister of State said?

Sir Keith Joseph: The Government takes the view that the money has been spent on books by many education authorities but they could do with better management by many authorities.

More students despite fall in grants

The fact that the number of students in this country was rising to unprecedented heights under this Government hardly suggested that the drop in the level of grants was a major disincentive to higher education. Mr George Waldean, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, said during question time exchanges in the Commons.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab): Student grants are now 14 per cent below the level in 1979. This represents a significant drop in the living standards of students and as such is damaging to the future of university education.

Mr Waldean: Student grants have been dropping, on and off, ever since 1962 under governments of both parties.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Denton and Reddish, Lab): Does he believe there are students suffering acute hardship because of the present level of grants and can they fall any further? Why can we not have the public inquiry which was promised last year?

Mr Waldean: We are constantly alert for evidence of real difficulty of the kind he has referred to and have nothing further to add on the question of review.

# Teachers' pay

The Government is making substantial extra money available, over and above the pay award, in order to achieve its dual purpose. Money is available for effective teaching providing the unions agree to the duties being part of the contract.

There has been public pressure for many aspects of public spending and it is the duty of the government of the day to sort them out in some order of priority. The fact the Government has found additional money for teachers' pay, subject to conditions which I have described, is recognition of that duty.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): Would he admit that the standard of schools is higher than it has ever been? It is typical that the voices against that reality come from the Government benches.

He is not paying his teachers. He is not paying his teachers as a real enemy and make it clear in all their organizations. Teachers do a vast amount of work and there is no overtime.

They are going back to work embittered and angry and it will all happen again in a very short time.

Sir Keith Joseph: The Government has set aside a considerable amount of money for effective teaching on the basis I have described. That is the reality and no amount of vituperation will change it.

There are very good schools but there is surely by common agreement scope for improvement.

Mr Michael Latham (Rushland and Melton, C): Capital spending is important to parents. Would it help him in dealing with this pressure if he was prepared to make it available to local education authorities to spend in their own areas?

Sir Keith Joseph: Yes, and that would make the Government that much more popular if it were possible. When that policy was adopted two or three years ago the local education authorities altogether spent £1.5 billion more than they had in 1979.

When will the Government acknowledge that our children should have a right to good quality education?

Sir Keith Joseph: He seems only to have read half the annual report of HMI. The HMI may say there has been spending on books by many education authorities but they could do with better management by many authorities.

Relatives gibe resented

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons that she resented the implication made by a Labour MP who asked whether any member of the Cabinet had a relative working for General Motors, which wants to buy British Leyland.

Mr Terence Davis (Birmingham, Hodge Hill, Lab) had asked: In view of the General Motors takeover and the rumours in Birmingham will she say whether any member of the Cabinet has a relative working in General Motors or one of its subsidiaries?

Mrs Thatcher: I resent the implication of his question. The bids are in today. They will be considered with one thing in mind: what will give the best prospect for jobs.

Sale of Vickers

Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State for Industry, said in a Commons written reply that he would ensure Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd remained in UK ownership following its sale by British Shipbuilders. Any necessary arrangements (he said) will be in place before the business is sold.

# Falklands fleet still possible

Britain could launch another Falklands campaign, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons. She was replying to Sir Edward de Cauna (Taunton, C) who had asked her to look at the appalling decline in the merchant fleet. Sir Edward de Cauna, accompanied by Labour MPs, said: It is all sorts of House of Commons members who are desperately concerned about the matter and its implications for defence and economic policy. We could not mount another Falklands operation because we do not have the ships and more than 80 per cent of British trade is carried in ships with foreign flags.

He asked her to instruct senior colleagues to do the things necessary to change the situation.

Mrs Thatcher: I disagree that we cannot mount another Falklands operation. We could. The merchant marine and war requirements are the subject of continuous review. The merchant fleet remains capable of meeting all the needs of the armed forces. The important thing for the merchant marine is that British shipping can compete with the fleets of other nations on costs.

Orange badges

Asked if it was proposed to change the conditions of the orange badge scheme for disabled drivers, Mr Peter Stansfield, Secretary of State for Transport, said in a written Commons reply that the department was about to review with local authorities and others concerned how the scheme had been working.

Brain-washing in schools condemned

Brain-washing in the classroom could have no possible place in a free society, Mr Christopher Patten, Minister of State for Education and Science, declared during Commons question time.

Mr Robert Banks (Harrogate, C) had asked him to agree that it was a cardinal principle for teachers to maintain impartiality when teaching political matters. Heads and teachers who expressed strong political allegiances drove a wedge between the vital relationships of teacher and pupil and teacher and parent, he said.

Mr Robert Macnamara (Cathness and Sutherland, SNP) asked what steps were being taken to assist the police to do their proper job of giving crime prevention advice in schools but who were being prevented from doing so in some left-wing, Labour-dominated boroughs.

Mr Patten said an admirable and very useful document on

# Sniffing kits to be outlawed

The Government is to take action in the new Drug Trafficking Offences Bill to outlaw the sale of certain sniffing kits, it was announced in the House of Lords.

Lord Glenamara, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said, when he moved the second reading of the Bill, which contains new powers to confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking, that reports had come to light within the last few weeks about the sale in London and elsewhere of cocaine sniffing kits.

It appeared that the kits were no means of preventing the sale of such kits under the present law. The Government was proposing to bring forward at the committee stage of the Bill provisions creating a new offence of supplying or offering to supply a combination of articles which, taken together, the seller believed were likely to be used in the administration of a controlled drug, other than for bona fide medical purposes.

He added: The open sale of kits which are designed to facilitate illicit drug taking are an intolerable affront to which we must respond immediately and decisively. (Cheers.)

The scourge of drugs, inflicting innumerable misery and a tragic waste of young lives, was one of the most serious problems facing society. The powers of confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking which the Bill introduced was another weapon in the Government's armoury and a particularly vital one. It would give the traffickers cause for thought and hit them where it hurt. They would have to reassess the risks and examine whether it was worth the candle.

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## Private investment 'a vital key to solving council housing crisis'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Better housing management and an injection of private investment are the essential keys needed to tackle a crisis in council housing, the Audit Commission, the local authorities' watchdog on economy and efficiency, concludes in a report published today.

It also recommends that councils should be free to use the proceeds of house sales to improve the housing stock.

Describing the situation as a crisis, the commission reports that there is a £20 million backlog in repairs and improvements, with 85 per cent of council houses needing repairs costing £5,000.

There are 175,000 homeless families a year; too many empty houses; unrealistic rents; and heavy administrative costs, it states. In some inner London areas, management costs alone exceed £500 a year for every council home.

Over the past six years, the report says, the real cost of managing council housing has risen by between 30 and 40 per cent, while the number of

homes has fallen by 4 per cent.

Criticizing "too much administrative bureaucracy," the commission concludes: "If all authorities were able to operate as economically and efficiently as the best quarter in similar authorities, central staffing levels could be reduced by as much as 8,000."

It argues that authorities should be prepared to charge more realistic rents for better services, complaining that some authorities take a "minimalist" approach—minimum rent for minimum services.

The commission urges tighter financial control, and that rents should take account of the cost of maintaining the property adequately.

Even if authorities do all they can to improve value for money in the ways the report identifies, a substantial crisis will persist in many inner-city areas. Calling for further sources of funds, the commission says: "In the absence of more direct public investment in council housing, a way of attracting more private sector

finance into providing housing for rent must be found."

Estimates suggested that as much as £1 billion a year might be available from private sources if the right terms could be arranged, and the report commends such initiatives as privately funded share ownership, index-linked mortgages at low rates of interest, and commercial mortgages raised by tenants' cooperatives.

In the worst areas, more public money is needed, and the commission urges that public funds should be used as a lever to attract private finance, through rate relief and VAT relief on big refurbishment and conversions, and capital allowances for selective investments.

On council house sales, the commission strongly favours allowing local authorities to use the proceeds of the sales to fund improvements to their existing stock. At present, they are allowed to use only a small proportion of those receipts. Managing the Crisis in Council Housing (Stationery Office, £5.95).

## Television slot for filibuster Tory MP

By David Hewson and George Hill

The Government faces a by-election in the midday slot of Derbyshire West with the appointment of Mr. Matthew Parris, the MP, as presenter of the television programme Weekend World.

He succeeds Mr. Brian Walden, the former Labour MP, who gave up the Ladywood seat in Birmingham in 1979 to present the programme.

Mr. Parris, who is 36, has held Derbyshire West for nine years, and had a majority of 15,325 in 1983.

He is remembered for mounting a filibuster, with one other Tory MP, on Miss Janet Fookes's Bill to curb kerb-crawling, which nearly sank the Bill.

To this day he has not entirely been forgiven for this offence against public decency, nor for that tendency to show lewdly towards sacred cows which can be so damaging to the prospects of young Tory backbenchers.

He cannot resist using irony or the reduction ad absurdum to make his serious points, as he often showed in his column for The Times.

His burlesque proposal of a system of dairy support involving the issue to farmers of concrete cattle was based on an assertion that the Government's policy represented "land nationalization by stealth."

He did not hesitate on occasion to attack the Prime Minister herself, though his time in her office answering her mail before he became an MP left him with admiration for her abrasive qualities.

His political attitudes were partly formed by a peripatetic childhood in South Africa, Ian Smith's Rhodesia and Swaziland.

Mr. Parris intends to talk to the Tory Chief Whip about the timing of his application to the Chiltern Hundreds, but he is expected to resign before Au-



Matthew Parris, who is to present Weekend World

just when he joins London Weekend Television.

He refused to say yesterday whether the Government should regard the constituency as a safe seat at the by-election he has caused.

"The by-election is going to be hard work and I must take care from now on not to join the argument," he said.

The Government's poor showing in the polls and the level of MPs' salaries had nothing to do with the move, he said. "It is the positive challenge of the new job rather than any dissatisfaction with the old that helped me make up my mind."

The new job meant that he would not return to party politics, he added.

He refused to disclose his new salary but said that his MP's salary of "around £16,000" was adequate for his needs.

That prompted Mr. John Birt, LWT's director of programmes, to observe that Mr. Parris would find his new salary "more than adequate".

Mr. Walden was reported to be earning an annual six-figure sum.

Mr. Parris won a first in law at Cambridge and worked in the Diplomatic Service and the Conservative Party research department before becoming an MP.

His political attitudes were partly formed by a peripatetic childhood in South Africa, Ian Smith's Rhodesia and Swaziland.

Diary, page 12

## Westland staff being lured to Continent

By Tim Jones

Workers at Westland have been urged not to respond to local newspaper advertisements which offer "excellent" salaries to scientists and technicians prepared to work in central Europe on new helicopter designs.

The advertisements, placed in local newspapers circulating in the Yeovil and Westonsuper-Mare areas of Somerset, where most of the Westland workforce is based, asks for "qualified designers or engineers to join multi-national teams in advanced helicopter design", and general technicians.

But the London-based Howard Organization Technical and Scientific Consultants, which placed the advertisements, refused yesterday to reveal for whom it is acting.

The silence raised speculation that European helicopter firms could be hoping to acquire Westland technology before the company settles down in its new partnership with Sikorsky-Fiat.

Westland competitors on the Continent include Aerospatiale of France, Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of West Germany and Augusta of Italy.

Workers at Yeovil have been advised by Mr. Paddy Ashdown, the area's Liberal MP, to reject the offer. He said: "If I were a Westland worker I would not take up this offer because the firm now has a great future with Sikorsky-Fiat."

Mr. Peter Batten, the Westland spokesman, said: "The only people likely to take up these offers are those who were going to take redundancy anyway because as a workforce we are 100 per cent behind the deal with Sikorsky-Fiat."

He added: "There is no danger of losing secret designs abroad because any individual would know only a tiny bit of the overall plan."

## 25 foreign diplomats ordered to leave

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The number of foreign diplomats ordered out of Britain after committing criminal offences doubled last year, according to Foreign Office figures released yesterday.

They showed that 25 diplomats were withdrawn at the Foreign Office's request last year compared with 13 in 1984. Almost half were for drinking and driving offences.

There were also six incidents of theft, three of indecency and two serious traffic offences. One diplomat was expelled for illegal possession of firearms, another on drugs charges and another for failing to abide by a court order.

The Foreign Office has a policy of not naming the culprits or identifying the countries they represent.

However, several cases have been in the news. One involved Mr. Ismail Uysirwoth, an education counsellor at the Uganda High Commission, who beat up a London taxi driver.

The man who defied the court order was Mr. Ahmed Rajab, the Syrian who claimed diplomatic immunity when he refused to leave his Kensington home.

A Foreign Office official said the increase in diplomatic withdrawals stemmed from the "get tough" policy outlined in a government White Paper last April, after the Libyan embassy shooting the previous year.

Altogether last year the Foreign Office recorded 54 serious offences by foreign diplomats. Its policy is to deliver a warning to first-time offenders in cases involving motoring offences or shoplifting and then to demand that diplomats be withdrawn if they commit a second offence. Expulsion orders are issued only if a foreign embassy refuses such a request.

## Move to bar 'peace convoy'

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

A 100-vehicle mobile hippie commune, known as the "peace convoy", could be banned from camping on private land under a proposal for inclusion in the Public Order Bill.

Last year, the convoy was barred from its traditional encampment on National Trust property adjacent to Stonehenge, because of a pre-emptive High Court injunction, so it moved up the M6 to Cannock Chase on July 12.

Clause 14 of the Bill, now in its Commons committee stage, gives a senior police officer power "to impose con-

ditions on public assemblies if he reasonably believes that serious public disorder, serious damage to property or serious disruption to the life of the community may result from the assembly, or that its organizers' purpose is the intimidation and coercion of others."

But it is felt that even Clause 14 does not give the police power to bar the convoy from private property, and once the convoy has parked on private land it is up to the owner to take civil action to remove it.

A week after the convoy's arrival on the Cannock Chase site at Seven Springs, the county council petitioned the High Court for a repossession order, but it was only after spare motor parts and fuel had been handed over, at ratepayers' expense, that the convoy finally left on July 25.

A police report on the affair said: "During the 13 days that the 'peace convoy' was in Staffordshire, 90 arrests were made."

"A total of 104 vehicles was counted between 400 and 300 people."

The site was closed for six weeks to be cleared

of the site. The site was closed for six weeks to be cleared

of the site. The site was closed for six weeks to be cleared

of the site. The site was closed for six weeks to be cleared

## Doctor's affair led to attack

A family doctor's affair with one of his patients led to an attack on him by her husband, the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee was told yesterday.

Dr. Anthony Collington, aged 54, of Kiveton Park, Sheffield, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct and his registration was ordered to be suspended for 12 months. He has 28 days to appeal.

The affair began, the committee was told, last April when the patient, identified as Mrs. X, was suffering depression and having marital difficulties.

He visited her at her parents' home, where they were found by her husband cuddling on a sofa "in circumstances of considerable intimacy".

The husband hit the doctor several times with some force. Dr. Collington was taken to hospital with two fractured cheekbones, but declined to press charges and told Mrs. X that he only had himself to blame.

Mr. John Macdonald, representing Dr. Collington, said the doctor had been recently divorced and believed Mrs. X's divorce was inevitable. "This was a warm, caring, passionate, albeit brief, relationship between two parties."

Mr. Macdonald produced 13 letters and a 1,500-signature petition in support of Dr. Collington.

## Shipyard action plea by unions

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Two maritime unions yesterday backed shipowners in urging the Government to halt the "alarming" decline in Britain's merchant fleet.

In 10 years, Britain has sunk from third to ninth place among world fleets, and the number of ships has dropped from 1,818 to 727, the National Union of Marine, Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers and the Engineers' and Managers' Association said in a Budget submission to the Chancellor, Mr. Nigel Lawson.

They say time is running out for government action to halt the decline in Britain's fleet and shipbuilding capacity. They urge better depreciation allowances and freedom to set aside tax-free reserves for new ships and repairs.

They also want an investigation into tax concessions for ships built in British yards, and those kept on the British register for a certain length of time.

Their call was supported by the General Council of British Shipping which said: "We want the Treasury to give a more favourable climate comparable to that in rival shipping states."

But with the Government under increasing pressure over possible Budget concessions, there has been no indication from Lord Cattenham, an Under Secretary of State at the Department of Transport, that help is on the way.

## Official statistics guide

## Pot-pourri of facts on birds and biscuits

Those concerned about the health of Britain's bees, the number of biscuits eaten each year, and the going rate for children's pocket-money, should consult the latest edition of the Guide to Official Statistics.

The Government Statistical Service's fifth edition of the guide can direct researchers along the right path to almost any topic.

The Archaeological Excavation Annual Report lists excavations of prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites in Britain, and government grants for excavations.

The Family Expenditure Survey, which is published annually, shows the latest trends in household expenditure on almost everything, including snuff, and how much pocket-money parents are persuaded to part with each week.

There are even references to the number of coffins made in Britain, the amount of esparto grass used in the production of pulp for paper, and the latest analysis of birds crashing into British registered aircraft. Compiled by the Central

Statistical Office, the guide aims to provide a valuable research tool for librarians, businessmen, journalists, students and other fact-finders. Its 16 chapters list updated reference sources for thousands of statistics, as well as the hard-to-find facts and figures.

In spite of its title, the guide also includes many of the more important non-official sources of statistics.

The first edition of the Guide to Official Statistics was published in 1976 and was awarded the Library Association's Besterman Medal for its outstanding bibliography.

A perusal of Summaries of Business and Peers' Attendance at Sitings of the House of Lords will show the the average daily attendance of peers, questions asked, and hours of sitting.

There are reference sources for surveys on mirrors, molasses, moneylenders, morbidity, mortgages and mushrooms. Guide to Official Statistics (Central Statistical Office, No. 5, 1986; £21.95).

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35 38	5.10	6.80	10.15	14.50	18.85
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38 41	5.40	8.20	12.00	18.00	23.40
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Focus on southern Africa

# Unita may bargain for hostages' safety

By Richard Dowden

Unita guerrillas who have seized about 150 expatriate workers, including at least 20 Britons, in the northern Angola diamond mining town of Andara, say they may still issue conditions for their release.

Mr Jeremiah Chitunda, the Unita representative in the U.S. said yesterday that no specific demands were yet being made, but "conditions are bound to change" and the policy of releasing hostages without conditions might be altered.

Most of the hostages, taken on Saturday in Andara, are Filipino and Portuguese but there are at least 20 Britons, a West German and a Roman. A Unita spokesman in Lisbon said that the Filipinos and Portuguese would be released without conditions.

Officials from Diamang, the Angolan diamond mining company, and from the Angolan Government, and Mr Christopher Segar, First Secretary at the British Embassy in Luanda, were to fly to the isolated town yesterday to assess the situation. An early report from an independent source confirms that the town was devastated and workshops serving the diamond mines destroyed.

The hostages will probably be marched south to the Unita headquarters at Jamba. This is the third time the

diamond-producing area has been a target of the rebels. In February 1984 expatriates including 16 Britons were seized from Catunio. In December the same year, another 22 were seized from the same place and an American aircraftman killed.

Although most expatriates have been freed unharmed in the past, Mr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, has this time lured Mr Stanislaw Svoboda, the Czechoslovak deputy For-

were among those kidnapped. It also confirmed that it had 123 expatriate workers in the town at the weekend. It is thought that there may have been about another 10 Britons in Andara on Saturday and there have been no reports about their safety.

Unita's *communiqué*, issued in Lisbon on Monday night, said that about 60 Government troops were killed in the fight for the town and that Unita lost 19 men and had 30 more wounded.

The Red Cross in Geneva confirmed yesterday that it was in contact with Unita but was not involved in negotiations for the release of the hostages. A spokesman in Geneva said he could not confirm the number of hostages taken.

Although the nerve centre of the diamond area is at Dundo, further north, Andara holds the main stores and repair workshops for all the diamond-mining operation in Lunda Norte province. It also contains the main sort house and Unita has already claimed it has taken away several pounds of uncut stones.

Andara's proximity to the Zairean border suggests that the Unita force, probably numbering about 2,000, crossed into Angola from Zaire, which gives secret support to the rebels.

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Iranian women dressed in black chador cloaks and holding Kalashnikov rifles at a Women's Day rally in Tehran. Ayatollah Khomeini, the religious leader, has suggested that women have military training in case they need to defend the republic.

## Hunt for Marcos riches in London

From Michael Hamlyn, Manila

The Philippines Government is planning to hire a firm of British solicitors as part of its worldwide effort to claw back the ill-gotten gains of former President Marcos, his family and close associates.

A special governmental commission, whose chairman has the status of a Cabinet minister, has been set up in Manila to hunt down the property of the former President and attempt to have it returned to the Philippine people.

The main effort will be in the United States, but Mr Marcos is believed to have property in Britain, Brazil and Switzerland, too.

"Our speed of operation will depend on the working of the law in the United States, in Latin America, in Switzerland and in Britain", the commission chairman, Mr Jovito Salonga, said yesterday.

Mr Salonga said the value of the assets that he and his fellow commissioners will be chasing is estimated at somewhere between \$5 billion and \$10 billion (£3.5-£6.9 billion).

The British property, Mr Salonga said, is mainly real estate and mainly in London. His commission is not at all sure how to set about getting its hands on it, but another commissioner, Mr Pedro Yap, said that it would appoint British lawyers who would do the same kind of work that a team of US lawyers has already undertaken in the New York courts.

There, it was announced earlier this week, the courts have intervened to prevent the sale of property in Manhattan and Long Island pending further proceedings.

The commission has already begun its work of sequestrating the property of the Marcos family and its associates. An announcement on the seizure of the Manila electricity supply undertaking is expected soon.

Mr Salonga's committee has been set up by President Aquino, and has been armed with powers to send for persons and papers, to seize property and seal it, if necessary, for the protection of evidence, and to dispose of assets for the benefit of the people.

The commission is also empowered to investigate other forms of corruption and to recommend safeguards to prevent graft and corruption happening again.

Mr Raul Deza, another commissioner, who has just returned from a long exile in the U.S. said corruption had become a way of life in Filipino society.

presidential elections. Cardinal Sin brought the massive weight of the Church in the Philippines firmly down on the side of Mrs Corason Aquino and the military opponents of Mr Marcos. While running the risk of putting the Church on one side in a civil war, he emerged with the victors and with renewed moral authority.

He underlined this moral victory with the remark: "If I wanted to be elected Pope I would have Marcos count the votes at the next conclave".

Cardinal Sin is expected to discuss a visit to the Vatican by Mrs Aquino. But the big question now being asked by Vatican observers is will Cardinal Sin's example of direct involvement in a political struggle be followed in other countries?

## Arms negotiators break off without making progress

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

As if the Reagan-Gorbachev summit of last November and the "spirit of Geneva" it engendered had never been, American and Russian arms control negotiators ended their fourth round of talks on nuclear and space weapons yesterday with each blaming the other for lack of progress.

The solitary new point they did recognize publicly was to let more than nine weeks elapse for cogitation before beginning a fifth round on May 8 - Ascension Day. This is the longest break for reflection since the talks began.

After a final plenary session at the US arms control building with 22 negotiators of each side facing each other across a long table, the chief Soviet delegate, Mr Viktor Karpov, emerged to say: "We regret there was no positive response from the American side to our proposals. We hope for more progress next time. There's still hope for that cooperative spirit but we, regrettably, don't have it."

Some four hours later, his US counterpart, Mr Max Kampelman, read a prepared text to the TV cameras but took no questions. He said

"positive factors", ultimate total elimination of nuclear weapons, recognition of importance of verification and commitment to negotiating a separate agreement on eliminating medium range missiles had not led to the hoped-for degree of progress. "Negotiating with the Soviets is difficult."

"The reason, in our view, is that the Soviet delegation has not acted to fulfil the commitments undertaken by our two leaders in the joint statement of November 21," he said. He hoped that in May the Russians would "join in a genuine effort to build on the coming round the proposal that exists for 50 per cent reductions in the offensive nuclear arms of both sides."

● LONDON: Britain will categorically rule out any linkage between a US-Soviet agreement on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe with a halt to Britain's plans to modernize its independent nuclear deterrent when Mr Thatcher replies to the initiative which Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, launched on January 15 (Nicholas Ashford writes).

A British reply is expected to be delivered to Moscow after the Soviet party congress ends later this month. Britain had been waiting for the US to reply first.

Mr Gorbachev has proposed the complete elimination of US and Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe so long as British and French forces are frozen.

Mr Gorbachev's arms plan, President Reagan's counter-proposals and the Geneva arms talks were discussed yesterday during a meeting between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Paul Nitze, Mr Reagan's special arms adviser.

In her letter Mrs Thatcher will make clear that Britain intends to go ahead with its plans to buy the American submarine-launched Trident missiles to replace the existing Polaris force. However she is expected to welcome Soviet and American proposals to make big cuts in their nuclear arsenals.

Britain will only consider scaling back its nuclear deterrent once the US and the Soviet Union have reached agreement on cutting back their strategic range missiles.

Propaganda drive, page 12

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## Jail told to hold accused Briton

Athens - The Salonika public prosecutor has ordered local prison authorities to detain a Briton now serving an eight-month prison term in Greece for theft, pending charges relating to the murder of a British tourist last summer (Mario Modiano writes).

The prisoner was arrested on January 24 when he was about to cross into Turkey in a camping van with his pregnant wife and two children. He was found guilty of stealing the equivalent of £590 from a camp site near Salonika and jailed for eight months because he was unable to pay the fine.

Interpol has since alleged to Greek police that his fingerprints match those of a man who is wanted in connection with the murder of Stephen Frederick Henderson, of Newcastle upon Tyne, in north-west Greece last July.

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## Bank robbers net £2.9m

Tours (AFP) - Gunmen robbed a Bank of France branch at Niort, 90 miles west of here, of an estimated 29 million francs (£2.9 million) after taking employees hostage as they arrived for work.

The gunmen arrived at the bank at 6.45am and overpowered the watchman as he emerged from the building. The safes and vaults were emptied in an hour, and the gunmen drove off in bank vans.

## MEP banned

Noumea (Reuters) - Françoise Dorothee Piermont, a Member of the European Parliament for West Germany's Greens, was refused entry to New Caledonia after being expelled from Tahiti for protesting in favour of French Polynesian independence and against French nuclear testing, during an electoral period.

## Zeffirelli tax

Rome (AFP) - The Italian director Franco Zeffirelli, whose films include *Jesus of Nazareth* and *Romeo and Juliet*, will appear in court on May 2 accused of not paying tax on income of nearly one billion lire (\$660,000 dollars) in 1982 and 1983.

## Killer aged 5

Miami (AP) - Prosecutors and detectives say they do not know what to do with a boy, aged five, who confessed that he pushed a three-year-old playmate five stories to his death after the toddler said he wanted to die.

## Parade cover

San Francisco (Reuters) - One of San Francisco's biggest and most famous celebrations, the Chinese New Year parade, was saved at the last minute when an insurance company agreed to underwrite the event.

## Aids in Malta

Valletta (Reuters) - The Health Minister, Mr Vincent Moran, said Malta's first Aids case had been confirmed, but declined to give details.

## Hotel plea

Annecy, France (AP) - The owner of the luxury hotel who is seeking the removal of the former Hittite president Jean-Claude Duvalier and his family was told by a judge that a ruling would be given today.

## Play censored

Tel Aviv (AP) - The Israeli censorship board has lifted a ban on the Broadway musical *Oh Calcutta* after making cuts in the play and restricting it to people over the age of 18.

## Pit inquiry

Dar Es Salaam (AFP) - The Tanzanian Government announced the setting-up of a five-man team to investigate reports that 30 people were buried alive when part of an illegal gold mine caved in near Lake Victoria.

## Dutch return

The Hague (AP) - The Dutch politician Mr Hans Wiegels has been appointed as Interior Minister to succeed Mr Koos Rijkman, who died 12 days ago. Mr Wiegels held the post from 1977 to 1981.

## Trento cost

Trento, Italy (AP) - The cost of the dam collapse which wiped out the Alpine resort hamlet of Slavia in July, killing at least 231 people, has been put at £10.6 million by an official study group.

## Fog carnage

Milan (Reuters) - Six people were killed and 15 others hurt in a 30-vehicle collision in thick fog on Italy's main north-south motorway, 18 miles south of Milan.

## Flood offering

Lima (AFP) - Villagers at Chumunani backed a peasant farmer, aged 37, to pieces as a human sacrifice to the floodwaters of Lake Titicaca on the Peru-Bolivia border.

## Botha gets plea on torture

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Amnesty International yesterday launched an international campaign against human rights abuses in South Africa, claiming that there had been a dramatic increase in incidents of torture and in the arbitrary detention of opponents of apartheid.

The organization has published a 17-page briefing paper on human rights in South Africa and a document containing allegations of the widespread use of torture.

It has also sent a 10-page letter to President Botha calling on him to take 10 steps which, it says, would be evidence of his commitment to end the violations.

Those include the release of political detainees and the removal of immunity enjoyed by security officials accused of mistreating and torturing prisoners.

It also wants the establishment of independent judicial inquiries into reports that government agents had killed, abducted or attacked government critics and anti-apartheid demonstrators.

## East London wants to be home to all races

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

The city council of East London, in the Eastern Cape, has voted in favour of opening the area under its jurisdiction to residence by people of all races. It is the first city to take such a step.

The mayor of East London, Mr Joe Yazbek, said yesterday that the council had no power to implement its decision without central Government approval. It could only forward a recommendation to the Government.

The matter was voted on a week ago, but the outcome was not made public at the time. The council was split, and it was only the casting vote of Mr Yazbek, a member of the opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP), which enabled the motion to be passed.

Two councillors unable to attend, later objected to the way the vote had been conducted. At a further session on Monday night, however, those objections, to most people's surprise, were withdrawn.

Mr Donald Card, a retired businessman and one of the councillors who voted in favour, said: "Desegregation has got to take place in the next

few years, one way or another. As long as we have the Group Areas Act we are going to have racial friction."

The Act enforces racial separation of residential areas and of facilities such as schools and hospitals. Present government policy, despite President Botha's assertion that apartheid is "outmoded", is that the law should remain.

Mr Card said he was confident that most of East London's 60,000 white population would support the council's decision, but admitted that he had been called a *kaffir* (kaffir-lover) by two abusive telephone callers yesterday.

East London, South Africa's only river port of any size, lies between the Ciskei and Transkei tribal "homelands" and has large black populations on its doorstep. This, and growing racial unrest in the region, seems to have motivated the council's decision.

The city council of Durban, further up the Indian Ocean coast, took a similar but much more limited decision on Monday, passing by 22 votes to five a resolution calling for the opening of the Greyville area of the town to all races.

## Rebel of Khyber Pass agrees to armistice

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

An uneasy truce has been reached between the Pakistan authorities and Malik Wali Khan Kookikhel, a tribal chief in the Khyber Pass region of the North West Frontier Province. He was accused last year of leading a bloody tribal revolt with support from the Afghan regime of Mr Babrak Karmal.

Malik Kookikhel, who is in his early seventies, met Mr

## Cardinal Sin reports back to the Pope

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Archbishop of Manila is due to arrive in Rome today on a brief visit to report to the Pope on the Roman Catholic Church's part in resolving the Philippines crisis, which some see as indicative of a new role for the Vatican among the superpowers.

Cardinal Sin is expected to see Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Secretary of State, as well as Monsignor Achille Silvestrini, head of the Council for Public Affairs, today.

His meeting with the Pope will probably be scheduled for tomorrow and will bring the Pope's first reaction to a move which undoubtedly helped to change the nature of the Church's involvement in international political upheavals.

Acting largely on his own authority during the recent

presidential elections, Cardinal Sin brought the massive weight of the Church in the Philippines firmly down on the side of Mrs Corason Aquino and the military opponents of Mr Marcos. While running the risk of putting the Church on one side in a civil war, he emerged with the victors and with renewed moral authority.

He underlined this moral victory with the remark: "If I wanted to be elected Pope I would have Marcos count the votes at the next conclave".

Cardinal Sin is expected to discuss a visit to the Vatican by Mrs Aquino. But the big question now being asked by Vatican observers is will Cardinal Sin's example of direct involvement in a political struggle be followed in other countries?

## Brandt dragged into Kohl scandal

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

A touch of farce has entered the "false testimony" affair, which began with a Green MP's private summonses against Chancellor Helmut Kohl alleging he did not tell the truth to committees investigating illegal political donations.

In obvious retaliation, some Christian Democrats are reported to have put out a similar summons against former Chancellor Willy Brandt, the chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

There are also veiled threats to do the same to the other former SPD Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt. All this - as well as a recent pronouncement by Herr Franz Josef Strauss that "everyone knew that political parties received donations in the way now said to be illegal" - has left politi-

cians wondering where all these summonses will end. The system, about which Herr Strauss said everyone knew, involves businesses giving cash to various research institutes with charitable status which were really "fronts" for political parties.

Herr Brandt's only comment so far was: "I see nothing incriminating me".

Leading article, page 13

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Cairo fo

Jihad conve  
riots scape

Fury over Mo  
court post  
in Spain  
by

Soviet pilot on



## Upheaval in Egypt

## Cairo fears trouble in south

From Robert Fick, Asyut, Upper Egypt

The posters still cling to the grimy, hot walls of Gomhouriya Street and to the pillars of Asyut's railway station, with its stone mosaic portraits of an unsmiling Nasser leading the Egyptian peasantry towards a future of smoking factory chimneys.

"Sheikh Salama will speak at the university on February 14th", they state with confidence. At the top of each photocopied advertisement is a drawing of two crossed swords, surmounted by an open Koran.

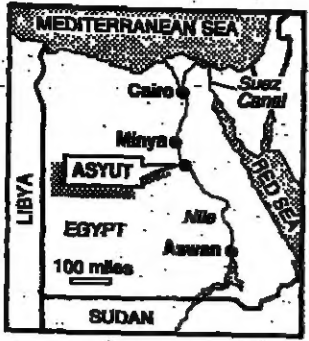
But the 33,000 students of Asyut never got the chance to hear the cantankerous old prelate. Well aware that Hafiz Salama had already incurred President Mubarak's wrath by demanding the immediate implementation of sharia law, the President's party faithful down in Asyut simply put him back on the train to Cairo.

It was an easy way out for the men who have to control the Egyptian city which has become the focus for Islamic fundamentalism, the very centre of religious inspiration for those whom the Government regards as the greatest threat to the nation's internal stability.

For while Mr Zaki Badr, the former Governor of Asyut, is up in Cairo as the new Interior Minister, suspecting that Muslim radicals were behind last week's rioting by the police —

he said as much in an interview in *al-Ahram* yesterday — the real attention of the *Mohabarrat*, the Egyptian security services, has remained south of the capital, on the series of towns and cities that line the banks of the Nile on each side of Asyut.

Officially, Asyut's city fathers evince an attitude of profound optimism about the future. Mr Abdul-Razak Hassan, president of the university and a prominent member of Mr Mubarak's National Democratic Party, expresses



himself pleased with the end results of the rioting, during which the local security police attacked a rice store and burnt down the traffic police department.

"What was good was that the people did not join the rioters", he said yesterday. "This was a very good pointer to the future. It showed that

the Egyptian population don't support these people."

Nevertheless, the Army has seen fit to position four tanks outside Mr Badr's old office, while squads of soldiers in full combat uniform with steel helmets stand guard on Nile bridges. Nor have the plainclothes government police missed a curious sequence of violent incidents involving Muslim students that preceded the rioting.

Only two-and-a-half weeks ago, students in Minya, to the north of Asyut, smashed up furniture in their lecture halls. Then, just two days before the police mutinied, up to 300 fundamentalist students at Asyut staged a demonstration in sympathy with their colleagues in Minya.

There is now a growing suspicion here that these Asyut students may have had some influence within the police force, encouraging in Asyut the rumours that their terms of conscription were to be extended.

Yet, for the authorities here, the real threat is presented by the organized character of Islamic student opposition to the Government. Perhaps it is because many of Asyut's students come from poor, conservatively religious families, perhaps because Asyut contains an equally radical Coptic minority, that the university

has become a place of dissent for fundamentalists.

University officials cope with this as best they can. When 1,000 students stood for election to the 250-strong student union last December, Mr Hassan and his colleagues vetoed 300 of the candidates who had fundamentalist backgrounds, but to no avail. Many of the other students standing for election had deliberately hidden their sympathies, and the union is today controlled by members of the *Gamaat Islami*, the "Islamic Groups" as they like to call themselves.

On the surface, their demands appear politically harmless. "All we want is sharia law, Muslim law applied to the country", a male medical student complained.

But the mood quickly changes. Egypt's Christian Coptic community must respect sharia law, they say. The Government has to show respect for Islam. Why is America humiliating Egypt? Why is America making Egypt poor?

The questions go on and on, rising in intensity. Of the 33,000 students, perhaps only about 1,000 follow the *Gamaat Islami*. But they remember that four of their number from Asyut University are still imprisoned for allegedly helping in the plot to kill President Sadat.



The Queen with Mrs Jill Wran, wife of the Premier of New South Wales, in Sydney.

## Sophisticated city smiles

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Australians seem to be abandoning any pretence that republicanism has a future in what is supposedly the most independently-minded of the Queen's realms. That, at least, is the impression left by the start of this third and final leg of the royal tour.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were given an affectionate and enthusiastic welcome when they arrived in Australia's most sophisticated city, Sydney, yesterday.

The royal couple rode in an open Rolls-Royce to Macquarie

Street, the heart of the city founded by white settlement of Australia almost two centuries ago.

The crowd, estimated by police at about 10,000, was easily the largest spontaneous gathering encountered since the tour set out from Nepal for New Zealand just over two weeks ago.

As the royal couple were welcomed by Mr Neville Wran, Premier of New South Wales, and his wife Jill, the crowd stood quietly for "God Save The Queen" and then,

just to show that there was no lack of national pride, delivered a rousing rendition of "Advance Australia Fair", the anthem introduced by the Hawke Government in 1983.

Replying to Mr Wran's message of welcome, the Queen said Australia had always been a land of promise and opportunity, but there were perhaps few nations where potential and opportunity had been matched so well by actual achievement.

The royal couple leave for Melbourne today.

## Aborigines plotting revenge on Hawke

From Our Correspondent Sydney

Aboriginal leaders, angered by the Hawke Government's decision to abandon an election pledge on land rights, yesterday vowed to retaliate by disrupting showpiece national events.

On Monday night, the Cabinet finally rejected a plan to draw up federal legislation and impose it on state governments unwilling to accept a preferred land-rights model.

Mr Gary Foley, an Aboriginal activist, said demonstrations would be staged to disrupt next year's defence of the America's Cup and the 1988 bicentennial celebrations to draw international attention to the issue.

Land rights for Aborigines have long had the support of a significant group in the Labor Party but it was not until the Hawke Government made it an election issue that it had any chance of becoming legislation.

The demise of Aboriginal land rights hopes was signalled last month during Western Australia's state election when Mr Brian Burke, the Labor Premier, vowed to resign if Canberra tried to force him to submit, and Mr Hawke said he could appreciate his objections.

## Jihad convenient riots scapegoat

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

Investigations into last week's riots by security forces conscripts are under way in Cairo amid much speculation about what triggered them.

Egypt's new Interior Minister, Mr Zaki Badr, is quoted in the semi-official *al-Ahram* newspaper as saying that some Islamic extremists may have infiltrated the security forces and urged the conscripts to riot in a plot to overthrow President Mubarak's Government.

Mr Badr said the President himself had raised the possibility of infiltration by Islamic and other opposition groups when he met new security chiefs who took over after the riots.

In a further indication that the Government may be looking for a convenient scapegoat, *al-Ahram* also reported that the authorities had found a diary belonging to Lieutenant-Colonel Abdel al-Zomor, a prominent member of the outlawed Muslim Jihad organization, in which he blamed his group's inability to overthrow the regime on its failure to infiltrate the security forces and Army. Colonel al-Zomor is serving a long jail sentence for his role in the assassination of President Sadat in 1981.

The Government at first blamed the conscripts' mutiny on a rumour that their terms of duty were being extended by a year.

Mr Badr said their attack on hotels in the Pyramids area of Giza may have been part of a plot to undermine Egypt's tourist industry. However, many Western diplomats and Egyptians who study the political scene here believe the conscripts were simply irritated by the sight of so many luxury establishments at odds with their often appalling standard of living.

These observers are often reluctant to accept the conspiracy theory, believing that what began as a spontaneous burst of anger against the Government could have taken on more sinister implications when and if the rioters were joined by Muslim fundamentalists and other government opponents as the violence spread throughout the capital and to some provincial towns.

## Fury over court post in Spain

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The opposition parties here have reacted to the election of a new president of the Constitutional Court, Spain's highest legal post, by declaring publicly that the court has "lost credibility".

Professor Francisco Tomás y Valiente, who before joining the court in 1980 held a chair of legal history at Salamanca University, was chosen by nine of the 12 judges of the court.

An impression, despite the criticisms, of new winds blowing was confirmed when eight judges went on to choose the only woman on the bench, Dr Gloria Begue, as the court's deputy president.

Dr Tomás, who is 53, has over the past five years been among the judges consistently upholding a forward-looking interpretation of the 1978 Constitution.

This line has bitterly upset the opposition parties, which have repeatedly gone to the Constitutional Court when they have found themselves outvoted in Parliament on controversial laws such as those permitting abortion and stricter state control over private education.

In the abortion case Dr Tomás criticized the Bill, which permits abortion only in certain circumstances, as not going far enough.

The Constitutional Court, which was created after the return of democracy, has so far failed to achieve undisputed independence. The opposition accuses the Government of packing the court with its own nominees.

## Moderates scared off by killing

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The murder of Mr Zafer al-Masri, the first Palestinian to agree to be appointed mayor in the occupied territories by Israel, appears to have frightened off the leading moderates who were thinking of following his example.

Both the men who had agreed to be considered as mayor of al-Birah withdrew from the reckoning yesterday. One of them, Mr Jamil Tariffa, said Israel was in part responsible for the murder of the Nabliu mayor, because it had turned the job into a political one.

The other candidate, Mr Walid Mustafa Hamad, took out an advertisement in an east Jerusalem newspaper withdrawing his offer because of "unexpected events".

The newspaper, *al-Mithaq*, carried another announcement from a potential candidate as mayor of Ramallah, Mr Nadiim Zaro, saying he had never even asked for the job.

The murder has also been given as the reason for a group of moderate Palestinians from the Hebron area abandoning a trip to Amman to tell King Hussein of Jordan personally that they supported his new position of non-cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Israeli police say forensic experts have found that the bullets which killed Mr Masri were fired from the same gun used in two assassinations in recent months, responsibility for which has been claimed by the PLO.

## Soviet pilot on trial

Peking (AFP) — A Soviet man charged with commanding a Soviet passenger plane to China in December went on trial yesterday in the north-east city of Harbin, the first foreigner charged with hijacking in China.

The trial is public, and is expected to last for three or four days.

The defendant, named as Altunrazov Shamil Gadji Ogly, a co-pilot, could face from three years to life in jail. He landed the Antonov 24 in

China on December 19 when a shortage of fuel forced him to abandon plans to take it to South Korea.

Moscow asked China to return the co-pilot but Peking sent back only the plane and its 42 crew members and passengers.

The trial comes a few weeks before a visit by Mr Ivan Arkhipov, a First Soviet Deputy Premier, who in December became the most senior Soviet official to come to China since 1969.

Kings College  
October 23rd 1994

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THE PRESENT WITH A FUTURE





# America slowly being destroyed by drugs, White House is told

From Michael Binyon, Washington

A horrifying picture of a country being slowly destroyed by drugs is painted in a report by a presidential commission, which says the US drug industry is now worth \$110 billion (£75 billion) a year in illegal profits, and accounts for almost 40 per cent of all organized crime.

Some 25 million Americans have tried cocaine, with between five and six million using it at least once a month; and one in every four of the population has tried marijuana with about 20 million people using it once a month.

The 455-page report, compiled over the past two and a half years and delivered to the White House on Monday, called drug abuse a threat to America's national security. It recommends use of military force and drug testing by employers to stamp out smuggling and drug use.

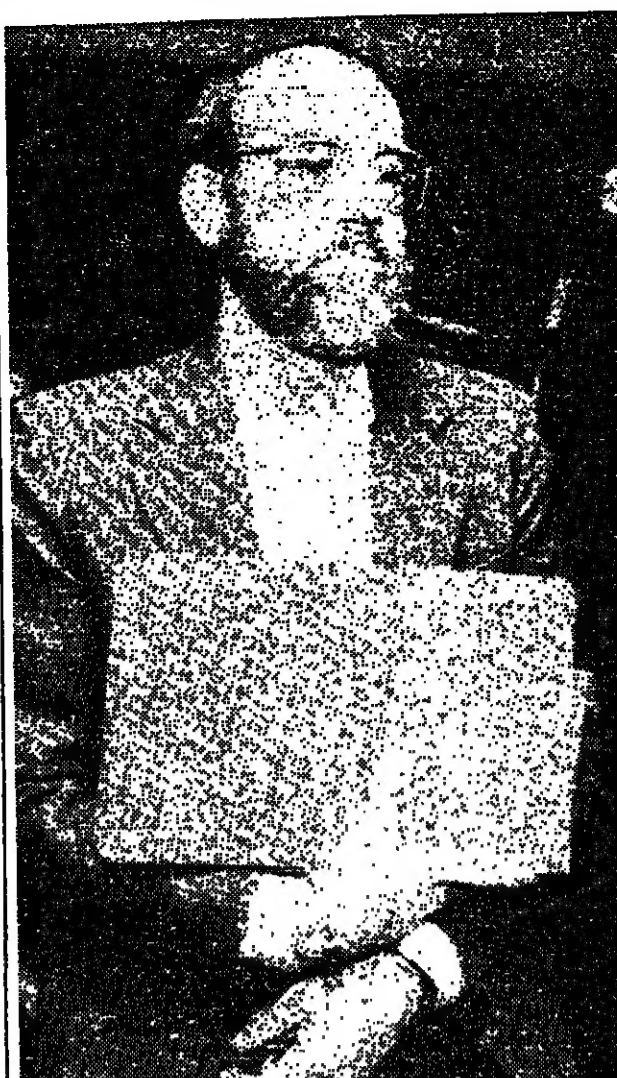
"No attempt to eliminate organized crime from this country can possibly be complete without a concerted campaign to reduce the demand for narcotics," said Judge Irving Kaufman, chairman of the commission. "It is the drug users who finance organized crime."

The commission said newer groups such as motor cycle gangs and drug rings in Mexico and Colombia had joined the Mafia in drug dealing. These groups were marked by "a degree of violence and corruption unsurpassed by any other criminal activity."

It added: "The situation confronting us is a crisis nationally and internationally. The menace of drugs is not restricted to a particular segment of society, but is now of a scope and severity that is a threat to our national security."

The report maintained that Cuba and Nicaragua aided traffickers in smuggling drugs to the US, while Bulgaria helped smuggle drugs to Western Europe from the Middle East — allegations strongly denied by the communist governments.

The commission recommended drastic steps to fight drug smuggling, including the greater use of the US Army. Military and intelligence units should be mobilized to deal with the problem. All federal agencies, including the top secret National Security Agency, should pool their information, and an intelligence operation centre should be established immediately.



Former US Navy communications expert Jerry Whitworth arriving at a San Francisco court to face charges of selling code and communications secrets to the Russians as part of a spy-ring headed by the already-convicted John Walker.

## US Navy surgeon jailed for deaths

Washington (AP) — A surgeon has been jailed for four years and ordered to be dismissed from the US Navy for the involuntary manslaughter and homicide of three patients at Bethesda US Naval Hospital.

The court-martial jury of nine naval officers also ordered Commander Donald M. Billig, who served as chief of heart surgery at Bethesda, to forfeit all future pay and allowances.

After 90 minutes' deliberation last Thursday, the jury found Billig guilty of causing the operation-table deaths through gross surgical errors. Billig, aged 55 and nearly blind in one eye, could have been jailed for up to 11½ years.

## China tells travelling officials to behave

Peking (Reuters) — China's Communist Party yesterday warned officials travelling abroad to behave themselves after the dismissal of one accused of immoral conduct.

The official *People's Daily* ran an editorial on the expulsion from the party of Mr Zhou Erfu, aged 72, a former vice-minister of culture.

It said he was expelled for having a "corrupt life-style violating Communist moral standards". Unconfirmed reports circulating in Peking say he was reprimanded by no less than Mr Deng Xiaoping after visiting prostitutes and sex shops in Tokyo.

The *People's Daily* said Chinese travelling abroad should "display the graceful bearing of the Chinese people" and "uphold national self-esteem".

"Proper behaviour must be strictly observed by all personnel when engaging in exchanges with other countries. It is very important to tighten discipline among people engaged in the field of foreign affairs to prevent anyone doing anything detrimental to the national or personal dignity," the paper said.

The Chinese authorities have also been trying to stop officials making unnecessary trips abroad which waste precious foreign exchange.

## Nakasone decides on Star Wars role for Japan

From David Watts, Tokyo

A leading Japanese newspaper says the Prime Minister has decided that Japan will take part in the American Star Wars programme.

The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, quoting a government source, said yesterday that Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone had already made up his mind that Japan would participate despite formidable political obstacles.

The Prime Minister himself confirmed that the Government would send a joint government-private sector research delegation to the US before Mr Nakasone's visit next month. This will be the third delegation to visit in connection with the Strategic Defence Initiative but the first to include the private sector.

The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* story is the latest in a series of hints that Japan will not be long in answering the year-old invitation to participate. Two weeks ago Mr Nakasone told a Diet budget committee that Japan could not indefinitely reserve its position.

Mr Nakasone's enthusiasm for SDI has been well-known but there have been indications that the Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, is not as enthusiastic.

"That's probably more a question of style than substance," a diplomat said. "Mr Nakasone always takes a higher profile than Mr Abe and at the end of the day he probably feels the same way. It's just a question of degree and the fact that Mr Abe will have to do a lot of the explaining once the decision is made public."

There is certainly to be a lot of explaining to be done with an opposition wary of Mr Nakasone's enthusiasm for helping out the Americans with things military.

The presence of industry representatives in the delegation going to the US indicates the shift of opinion. At first industry claimed to be uninterested in SDI for one of two reasons — either because Japanese technological superiority was such that it did not need to dirty its hands with such a project, or that private firms were unwilling to visit the US military-industrial complex in a country which at least pays lip service to its peace constitution.

The fact that not only British and West German but also French industry are now in a position to benefit from SDI has clearly encouraged Japanese industry.

According to *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, Japan is likely to submit a letter to the US Government after it assesses the results of the mission. This would most likely indicate participation by the private sector.

Though there is unlikely to be overt pressure from the US for a decision, the Japanese will undoubtedly feel the need to show progress by the time Western leaders hold their Tokyo economic summit in May.

# How to be the successful transatlantic business traveller.

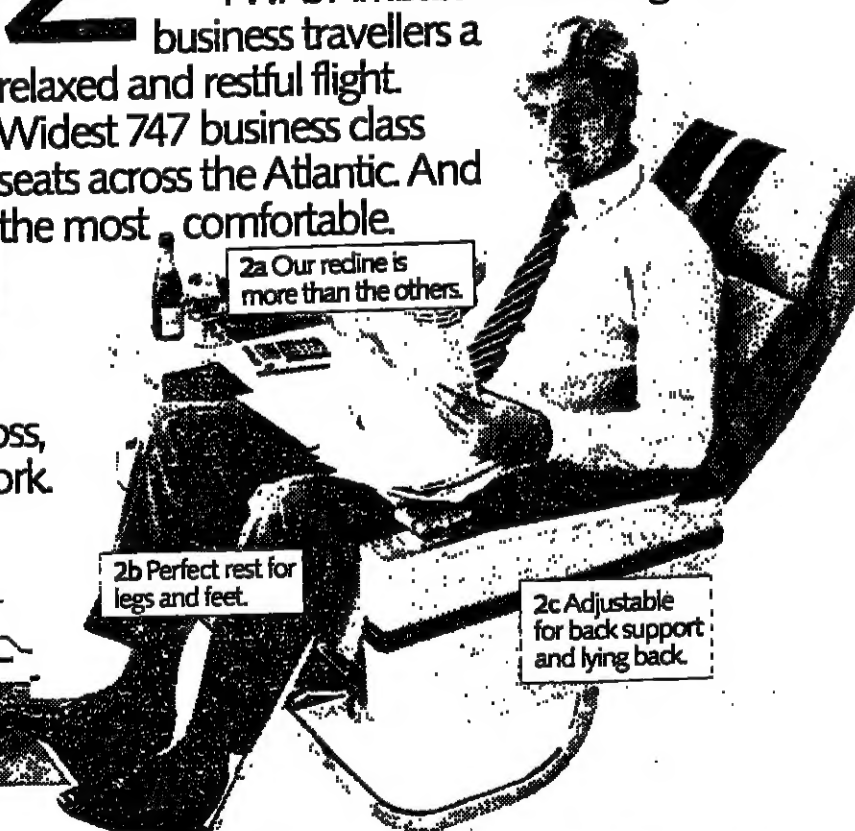
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Domestic Departures

City	Time
Atlanta	7:00 AM
Boston	7:30 AM
Chicago	8:00 AM
Dallas	8:30 AM
Denver	9:00 AM
Detroit	9:30 AM
Houston	10:00 AM
Los Angeles	10:30 AM
London	11:00 AM
Madrid	11:30 AM
Miami	12:00 PM
Minneapolis	12:30 PM
New York	1:00 PM
Philadelphia	1:30 PM
Pittsburgh	2:00 PM
Portland	2:30 PM
San Francisco	3:00 PM
Seattle	3:30 PM
Wash. DC	4:00 PM

## Six states still face food crisis

Rome (AFP) — Despite bumper harvests in Africa last year, six countries in 1986 will have problems feeding their populations, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

In a special report issued on the situation in Africa, the FAO named the six as Angola, Botswana, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan. It said they would need 2.4 million tonnes of food aid.

The FAO put the total needs of the 45 countries south of the Sahara at 3.3 million tonnes, half that of last year. A further 5.3 million tonnes would be imported commercially.

This was despite a generally excellent harvest in 1985, which was a record 34.3 million tonnes, 14.2 million more than in 1984 and 23 per cent up on the average of the past five years.

The FAO called on donor countries to help by funding the purchase of food in areas of surplus in Africa and their transport to areas of need.

The report drew attention to Sudan, which had a record harvest of 4.6 million tonnes in 1985 and a surplus of 520,000 tonnes. Yet it did not have the resources to distribute the food.

Prospects for the 1986 harvest are variable, the report said. In most of southern Africa the rains were late but good in January and February, and the harvest should be normal if they continued, but Angola and Mozambique would be hit by the effects of civil war and Botswana by a sixth successive year of drought.

## Ambassador dies in Caracas blaze

A woman being winched to safety by helicopter (above) from a fire which destroyed the Chilean Embassy in Caracas. Chile's Ambassador to Venezuela, Señor Carlos de Costa, and 14 other people died in the blaze on Monday night.

The fire consumed the top two floors of a 14-storey building in which the embassy was located, according to the Fire Department chief, Commander Enrique Andrés García (Reuters reports).

Witnesses said they had seen at least three people leap from the upper floors. At least five other victims were embassy employees.

## Transfer of hi-tech on Thatcher's Seoul list

Seoul (Reuters) — Mrs Margaret Thatcher will be the first British head of government to visit South Korea when she comes here from May 2 to 4 at the invitation of President Chun Doo Hwan.

President Chun is due to visit Britain next month during a European tour.

South Korea exported goods worth £658 million to Britain in 1984 and imported British products worth £390 million. British Embassy officials said Mrs Thatcher's talks were expected to include transfer of high industrial technology and economic cooperation in areas including electronics, cars, petrochemicals, medicine and bio-engineering.

Reforms sought: South Korea's Roman Catholic civil rights group yesterday joined an opposition campaign demanding constitutional reforms (Reuters reports).

Mr Lee Don Myong, chairman of the Korean Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, accused the government of holding 1,000 political prisoners and demanded their release.

## Food left by Scott found in Antarctic

Wellington (AP, Reuters) — Antarctic researchers have found a food cache left by Captain Scott during his fatal expedition to the South Pole in 1912, officials announced here yesterday.

The cache included candles, cans of cocoa, egg powder, jam, sardines and dates. Some items were dated 1910.

They were never used by the British explorer, whose party died on the return journey from the Pole after the Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, had narrowly beaten them in the race to be first there.

The scientists found the cache at Batter Point in McMurdo Sound. The items are to be displayed in a Christchurch museum.

## Navy's gigolo pays \$40,000 for romances

Newport, Rhode Island (AP) — Commander John Hollis, aged 39, of the US Navy, was convicted yesterday of sexually pursuing enlisted women under his command, fined \$10,000 (£7,000) and ordered to forfeit \$30,000 in pay.

He escaped the jail term requested by the prosecution but the jury of six officers confined him to the Newport naval base for 60 days.

Four petty officers testified that the commander dated and romantically pursued them from December 1984 to August 1985.

Fraternization "on terms of military equality" by officers with enlisted personnel is a violation of US Navy law.

Heart of gold

R... of ...

Confusion i... werewolf i...

The Savon Shore

Midea

The Young Vic



## THE ARTS

Television  
Heart of  
gold

There is a tradition of lovable cockney heroes, stretching from the wilder excesses of 19th-century fiction to a series such as *Boon* (Central). The eponymous hero (played by Michael Elphick) is a "bit of a lad" in every conceivable sense, with one eye upon what no doubt he calls "ladies" and the other upon the hearts of the television audience. He need not look at his own heart, of course, which is so egregiously in the right place that a Salvation Army band could not be more visible.

Of course honesty and a certain rugged loveliness are attractive qualities, but they are not quite so overwhelming that a whole series can be built around them. And *Boon*, with its eighth episode, is beginning to show signs of strain — a great deal of drama is being concocted out of a few relatively trivial incidents, which means that it has acquired a frantic air not dissimilar to that of the average soap opera. In last night's programme the hero, known as a "troublesome troublemaker", was fighting the forces of evil in the guise of two antique dealers. One cannot expect great performances to spring from such a scenario — certainly the female villain was signalling her unpleasant intentions from several miles away — but one hoped for a certain inventiveness.

Unfortunately, the script failed to rise to the few occasions available, and as a result the whole enterprise stayed rather flat. But the main problem was that of tone — like many other contemporary series on television, *Boon* tries to oscillate between comedy and melodrama while only managing to fall through the middle.

What *It's Worth* (Channel 4) returns with a new series devoted to consumers and their "rights". The programme has a double advantage, therefore: it can plausibly claim to perform a public service (in last night's episode it exposed a man who took advantage of the misery of the unemployed) while at the same time adding to the harmless stock of public amusement with its less serious items. In the latter category must be included the pursuit of the programme's victims by the relentless interviewer — an investigative version of the foot-in-the-door approach. This generally ends in a confrontation or, even better, a fight — and must be very good for the ratings.

Peter Ackroyd

Verdi and Puccini should soon be smiling (or scowling?) at one another across the Thames: *After Aida* opens at the Old Vic on March 19 preceded, today week at Wyndham's, by *Café Puccini*, the first full-scale play by the versatile Robin Ray: interview by John Higgins

Romantic  
operations  
of a born  
entertainerRay, with Bohemian bottle, on the set of *Café Puccini*

In successive weeks this month Verdi and Puccini open at theatres, not opera-houses, on either side of the Thames. On your right, facing downstream, the Old Vic has Julian Mitchell's *After Aida*, which tells how Verdi and Boito after much mutual suspicion came to work together on *Otello*. It was reviewed on this page towards the end of last year, when it toured Wales under the title of *Verdi's Messiah*. On your left is *Café Puccini* at Wyndham's, the first full-length play by the actor, broadcaster and writer Robin Ray. Here the whole of Puccini's life, not just a slice of it, is put on stage and intercut with very familiar arias.

The rival teams have been eyeing one another at a distance, slightly surprised at the coincidence. But, as Robin Ray observes with due decorum, "There were two successful operas about Manon, so why should there not be two plays about opera composers?" A less courteous man might have pointed to the matter of *La Bohème*, over which Puccini and Leoncavallo squabbled furiously, an episode which features in *Café Puccini*.

Ray was in his twenties when he had his first encounter with opera. During National Service he had made friends with a fellow-officer who stayed on in the RASC and became one of the Army's spokesmen. The job carried with it a flat in Berkeley Square and a certain entertainment allowance. One night, when the

nightingales were not singing, the officer placed a cognac in Ray's left hand, a libretto in his right and *Bohème* on the turntable. "It was," says Ray, "for Puccini and me, just as for Rodolfo and Mimì, love at first sight. Inevitably that was the Beacham recording with De Los Angeles and Björling. From that day it has never been dropped from my private list of desert island discs."

Later a 10-year stint of reviewing for Capital Radio kept Robin Ray in weekly touch with classical records. But the idea of a Puccini play came from Andrew Lloyd Webber. They first met on another of Ray's long-running programmes, *Face the Music*.

"His proposal was something based on that fight with Leoncavallo over who should compose an opera on Murger's *Scènes de la vie de Bohème*. I took the idea away and reckoned that at most it would make a one-act piece. And for a time I rather avoided it, because he does like getting his own way. But I worked with his Really Useful Theatre Company on shows like *Side by Side by Sondheim* and *Tomfoolery*, and the name of Puccini had to surface again.

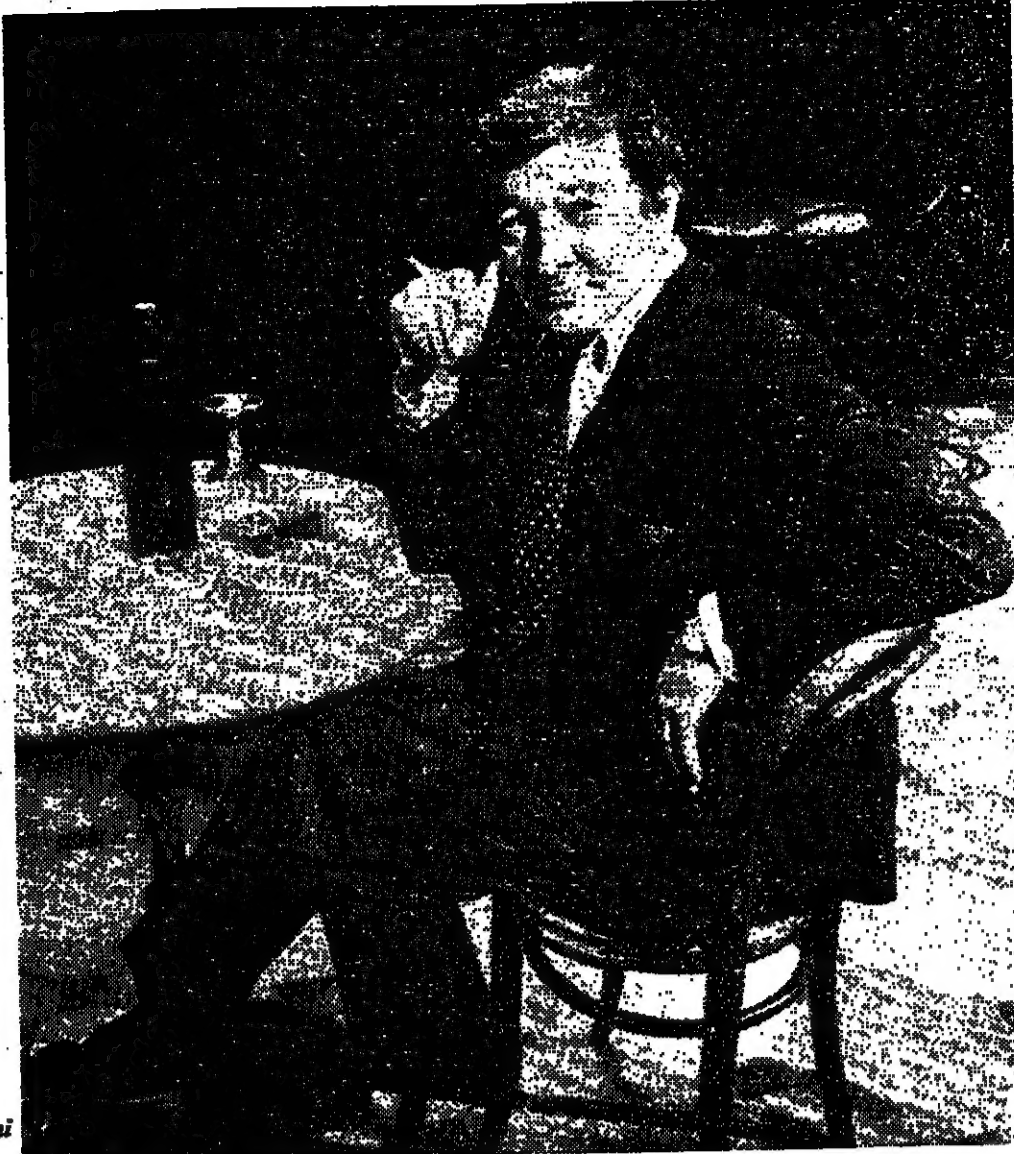
"This was five years later and the proposal was for a 'Side by Side by Puccini'. Andrew claimed that Puccini made arrangements of his most popular melodies for small orchestras in cafés and hotels. When I asked him for evidence, he simply replied 'I'm

telling you so'. But it did provide the idea for *Café Puccini*, and before I could turn round I found myself committed to a 'Sydmonton Special', one of those musicals which gets an airing at his private festival each July.

Ray had written sketches for the theatre, and compilations of other people's work, but never a play. He was determined that he should not turn out the stock Radio 4 composer-biography. The arias themselves were to be the starting-point for episodes in Puccini's life: the first successes, the fiasco of *Butterfly*, the elopement with Elvira, the affair (real or imagined) with the housemaid Doria. Whenever possible the chronology of the music should fit the chronology of Puccini's life, although a couple of liberties are taken with this.

"The first period of writing was intense. It is too pompous to say that I felt inspired, but I did feel a touch of that white heat of creative activity. I stood at the typewriter and within eight days produced a script of 104 pages. On one side was a pile of opera records and on the other all the Puccini biographies, with Mosco Carner always at the top. What you will see at Wyndham's will be very different, but at least there was something for Sydmonton. I've always been a sprinter, never a long-distance runner. At school I never managed anything beyond the 100 yards."

Has Puccini himself changed in



Pete Dringwater

Concerts  
American brass in  
all its splendourMilwaukee SO/  
Foss  
Barbican

There is no denying that, while American orchestras do not always play with the character of ours over here, their standards of technique and ensemble continue to be quite remarkable. Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* for instance, which opened this concert by the visiting Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, was declaimed by the brass with thrilling security and splendour of tone, and the same players contributed a rousing climax to Ives's *Decorative Day*.

The whole of Ives's imaginative world seemed to be distilled in this wonderful little tableau: the nostalgic wistfulness, the extraordinarily daring orchestral strokes, the capacity to evoke a scene from New England life — in this case the commemoration of the victims of the Civil War — with almost tangible vividness. The conductor, Lukas Foss, sorted out the complex

textural layers most convincingly, conjuring a moment of magic when the offstage bugle-call drifted evocatively past a quiet backcloth of tremolo strings.

Beethoven's astoundingly dynamic Seventh Symphony illustrated the other side of things. The rhythmic control was immaculate; Foss brought out some telling detail; and in the Allegretto an outstanding string section really showed what it could do. And yet somehow the performance as a whole seemed to lack perspective, even involvement; the finale did not really blow the audience out of their seats as Beethoven surely intended it should.

Earlier, in Bruch's First Violin Concerto, the orchestra had provided a finely sonorous accompaniment to which Nigel Kennedy's richness of tone was more than equal. The soloist handled the technical problems as if they did not exist (the interpretative ones hardly do anyway) and delighted his audience with a bonus — some "Milwaukee Blues".

Malcolm Hayes

Bournemouth  
Sinfonietta/  
Calcraft  
Elizabeth Hall

Six concerts this week and next in tribute to Joaquín Rodrigo, the doyen of Spanish composers, began on Monday night with the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, who are giving four of them. Now in his eighty-fifth year, the composer was present with his wife to hear Raymond Calcraft conduct two of his 11 works in concert form which together represent his major contributions to the orchestral repertory.

Being deprived of sight since the age of three has been a factor in developing Rodrigo's musical sensibilities, and his flair for instrumental colour in a romantic idiom. A feeling for his native heritage shapes much of the impressionistic style and content of the *Concierto serenata* (1952), in which Juan Jones was the nimble and neat harp soloist and the writing uses only an occasional harmonic tritone to invigorate the echoes of a bygone grace of spirit.

Thirty years later Rodrigo added the *Concierto como un divertimento* as his second

concerto for cello, this one written for Julian Lloyd Webber and clearly intended to combine a folksy lyricism with some demands on performing technique. Its character shows more conscious contrivance than other works of Rodrigo, with a corresponding reliance on gestures that Mr Lloyd Webber imbued with only fiftieth cogency.

The conductor drew warm and expressive response from the orchestra, as also in the watercolour delicacy of Rodrigo's *Distant Saraband* with its evanescent remembrances of a courtly past. Ravel's *Mother Goose* and Falla's *El Amor Brujo* helped to frame a context for the rest, in performances that caught the fanciful enchantment of the former more successfully than the haunting dramatic ritual of the latter.

Noël Goodwin

Andreas Schmidt, the young German bass-baritone who recently made his British debut in the Covent Garden production of *Faust*, sings in three performances of the *Faust Requiem* with the Philharmonia Orchestra, on Saturday at St David's Hall, Cardiff, and on Sunday and Tuesday at the Festival Hall. He replaces Renato Bruson. Carlo Maria Giulini conducts.

## Theatre

Confusion in the  
werewolf idiomThe Saxon Shore  
Almeida

The opening of David Rudkin's new play (played by the illness of Robert Edmondson) brings about an alliance between a writer of uncompromising originality and a courageously enlightened management.

With its meagre resources, the Almeida has assembled a crack company, commissioned a score from Oliver Knussen and secured a spell-binding replacement performance from Ian McDiarmid in under a week. Pierre Audi and his team have gone to work on *The Saxon Shore* in the same all-or-nothing spirit that Rudkin brought to writing it; and, if there were any justice in this world, the result should have been an heroic event instead of the benighted ordeal that engulfed Monday night's house.

According to one advance interview the piece originated in the initial images of a werewolf and a Saxon farmer. Putting these two together took Rudkin back to Roman Britain, and to a fable of the transplanted "British Saxons" who were left to hold the Empire's northernmost frontier when the legions moved out in 410. The setting is Hadrian's Wall — evoked by Hildegard Bechtler as a sink-

ing concrete pyramid — where Athdark, the protagonist, is employed as a guard. It is not his only task. Besides serving with the Roman Territorials he is also struggling to learn Latin, while at night he falls in under the barbarous king Cambyzes (Mr. McDiarmid) and turns into a werewolf. It is a busy life.

As the play opens the werewolves are back after a night's marauding, smacking their chops over the babies they have devoured, when Athdark limps in with a flint axe-head embedded in his side. It is still there next morning when he awakens as a perplexed Christian with no memories of the night before. He decides, for no clear reason, to hide the wound, and spends much of the first act hobbling through his agricultural and religious duties in a state of agonising pain.

As he is played by Gerard Murphy, a masterly exponent of guilt and physical anguish, it is difficult to pay attention to anything apart from that suppurating wound. This is a pity as the early scenes also contain an arresting sermon (fervently delivered by Jonathan Kent) relating the British inheritance to the biblical story of Ahab and Jezebel. This engages the plot when Mr Murphy, sweating and delirious, blunders over the wall and falls into the hands of a



Gerard Murphy: mastery of guilt and physical anguish

Celtic princess who cures his wound — only later to fall victim to his fangs during one of his nightly transformations. The point of that killing, it seems, is that Athdark loses his precarious sense of civilized identity when the Romans leave and reverts to barbarism. But the plot-line is extremely confusing — partly through the multiple doublings of the company of seven and partly through Rudkin's changes of idiom, which plunge from tirades and fairy-tales to telegraphic werewolf speech and anachronistic comedy.

Irving Wardle

The Black  
Jacobins  
Riverside

This is already proving to be a good year for tyrants taking early baths. It is a happy coincidence that the "retirement" of Baby Doc Duvalier came so soon before this revival of C.L.R. James's play about Toussaint l'Ouverture and the 1791 slave revolt in St Domingue, now known as Haiti: the event has rather overshadowed the fiftieth anniversary of the work's previous English production, following this month, with Paul

Robeson in the title role ("although too propagandist" frowned *The Stage*).

It is not too difficult to see why the piece should have had to wait half a century for resuscitation, for its propagandizing tendencies are as nothing beside its lack of dramatic power. Episodic, diffuse, at times dull to the point of

vapidity, it features such classically dull lines as "How's the revolution in France going?" and "Hard. It is hard. These are hard times we live in." Vivienne Brewster's intermittently vigorous production makes full use of the wide stage, with the giant standards of the powers who were interested in the fledgling republic (Spain, France, Britain, America) displayed in the masonry arcades of the back wall, and with minor scenes — the French Colonel Vincent, for example, perturbing his master Napoleon with the news that Toussaint makes do with two hours' sleep nightly — dovetailing on a subsidiary platform halfway up the rake.

Miss Brewster is a director whom I admire, but I feel she has overreached herself with this 20-strong company. Norman Beaton's interpretation of the heroic rebel leader turned canny diplomat presents a testy, sometimes comical figure who never approaches the nobility that might have saved the thing; but he does at least spare us the "little negro spiritual" with which Robeson apparently graced the prison scene. Brian Bovell seems miscast as Toussaint's nephew Moïse, and it is left to Trevor Laird's usurping Dessalines to add a touch of panache.

Martin Cropper

## Penderecki Festival

stock of Penderecki's extraordinary career. His early, worldwide success was with violently avant-garde pieces, often on apocalyptic themes. But from the late 1970s onwards came a radical change towards compositions using traditional harmonies and thematic structures, often consciously reflecting Polish national sentiment (particularly in the wake of the Solidarity uprising).

This programme vividly contrasted the two ages of Penderecki. First the composer conducted the RAM Opera Orchestra and Chorus in *Canticum Canticorum Salomonis*, a 1973 work which

seems to sum up, and indeed catalogues, his *enfant terrible* explorations. These days the catalogue does sound a little like yesterday's fashions: the *Song of Solomon* splintered into jagged syllables, or delivered in a cacophony of melismas; the orchestration a familiar mixture of quasi-aleatoric scramblings and mysterious reposes.

But, although the music rarely conveyed the sensual excitement of this celebrated piece of erotica, one could not ignore its dramatic appeal. The moment towards the end when an enormous tutti was gradually filtered down to two solitary basses, before the

throbbing pedal-point, and these low, thick sonorities predominate throughout. Predictably the final terrifying vision granted to Adam and Eve — of future wars and disease — brings the best out of Penderecki: a passacaglia, slithering downwards, which builds to some searing climaxes.

Nicholas Cleobury conducted with exemplary clarity, and among a talented group of solo singers the tenor Christopher Ventris (Archangel Michael) and the counter-tenor Colin Cree (Death) performed with particular assurance.

Richard Morrison

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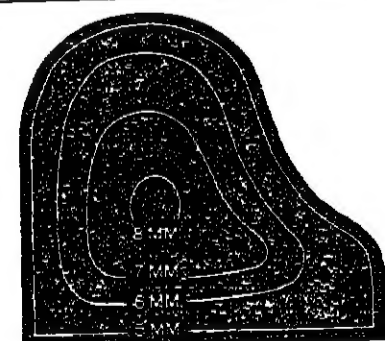
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Krzysztof Penderecki's association with the Royal Academy of Music goes back a decade, but the Academy's current four-day Penderecki festival (directed by Paul Patterson) is a particularly bold enterprise. More than half its students are involved in the seven concerts and related events, and judging by the first evening they have been meticulously prepared. It is a good time to take



## SPECTRUM

Geraldine Norman unravels the \$6 million mystery of the Getty Museum's controversial old master

## Fake with a fortune at stake?

## Unfolding of the saga's many secrets

The former history of the painting is shrouded in mystery. Hitherto quite unknown, it was found somewhere in Europe by Derek Johns, a London dealer who used to run Sotheby's Old Master department. He has kept the identity of the former owner a closely-guarded secret.

In selling the painting, Johns entered into a partnership with two other dealers, Artemis of London and Eugene Thaw of New York, the latter a brilliant dealer trusted more than any other by American museums. Thaw sold the painting first to Ronald Lauder, a wealthy private collector who is Caspar Weinberger's assistant at the US Defense Department, the son of Estée Lauder and an influential trustee of the Metropolitan Museum.

Then the trouble started. Lauder asked Alain Tarica to look at the painting he had purchased and Tarica pronounced it a fake — and, moreover, a fake by two different hands. Thaw took the painting back and refunded the purchase price. He next loaned it for a few weeks to the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the art world flocked to see the controversial painting. Finally he sold it to the Getty Museum.

The wide publicity given to the controversy at the time of the purchase put Alain Tarica on his mettle. He began by combing the archives of Europe for references to the painting, but with little success. His search did, however, alert him to the extraordinary reputation of Luigi Cavenaghi, a restorer who worked at the Brera, Milan, and became the director of the Vatican art gallery.

## Turned his hand to complete inventions

While limiting himself to a minimum of restoration on museum pictures, Cavenaghi was said to have frequently repainted private clients and occasionally to have turned his hand to complete inventions. A supposed Cima de Conegliano in the Poldi Pezzoldi collection in Milan has only recently been discovered to be 50 per cent Cavenaghi.

Last autumn Tarica approached *The Times* and offered to pay the costs of sending any scientists of our choice to check through the results of the technical examination the Getty had made. The Getty agreed to receive scientists working for *The Times*. So far, so good — but no properly qualified scientist would agree to go.

The Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique in Brussels was first approached since it has done more work on early Flemish painting than any other institution. The director, Mme Lilian Maschelein, acknowledged that the painting qualified as being of national importance to Belgium but said that she could agree to work on it only if invited to do so by the Getty itself or the Belgian Government.

The Getty balked at issuing such an invitation, saying that it had complete confidence in the painting and, for its own part, saw no need for a second opinion. Other scientists were unwilling to offend so influential an institution.

John Walsh, director of the Getty, then suggested a compromise. It would review its scientific evidence for me if I came in person, and for Alain Tarica if he came with me. The atmosphere in the laboratory which nestles in the basement of the imitation Roman villa housing the Getty Museum was highly charged as Walsh, Ronald Laskin the curator, Andrea Rothe the restorer, and various assistants gathered to meet the troublemaker.

Spiky questions and elaborate explanations gradually gave way to farce as Tarica and Rothe, both of excitable temperament, began to

The London National Gallery is compiling evidence on how the 15th-century artist Dieric Bouts painted. This laudable and scholarly endeavour is aimed at helping California's Getty Museum prove it has not bought a Bouts fake. The museum spent a reputed \$6 million on an "Annunciation" last year which is believed to have been painted as a companion to the National Gallery's "Entombment", long attributed to Bouts. If the two paintings can be proved to use an identical technique it will ward off the suggestion made by Alain Tarica, a New York dealer, that the Annunciation is a 20th-century fake.

But life is not that easy. Most scholars specialising in early Flemish painting find the Annunciation odd in one way or another. And the results of the routine scientific investigation of the picture made by the Getty Museum contain signs that features have been added to the

composition in a later century, probably our own.

Tarica claims that the picture has been completely repainted in the 20th-century. He believes that a leading Italian picture restorer, Luigi Cavenaghi, began work on it around 1960 but only finished the two figures. He says that most of the picture was painted recently, imitating the manner of Bouts.

A Dutch follower of van der Weyden, Dieric Bouts, imbued his stiff, almost sculptural figures with mystical intensity. Only three works can be firmly attributed to his hand, around which a group of attributed pictures has been gathered because of their similar painterly vision and technique.

The National Gallery owns two paintings in this attributed class and its scientific department, one of the best in Europe, is preparing a detailed report on

them. "I think we may get as near proving the case as one institution can do for another", says Alistair Smith, the keeper responsible for northern paintings. David Bomford, the scientist in charge, adds: "We have seen absolutely nothing to make us doubt the painting over there. We will put up the evidence on our paintings and it is up to other people to draw their own conclusions." The study is due to be completed by the end of this month.

Alain Tarica remains sceptical. "If a man is good, he too can analyse the materials and techniques and get them right. Look at the famous van Meegeren forgeries. Everything seemed right until new methods of dating pigments were invented in the 1960s. You can now use neutron activation analysis or study the ratio of various isotopes of the pigment. The Getty should get an independent laboratory to make these tests."

Little is thus known about the correct physical characteristics of such a painting.

The Getty's case for considering the painting authentic rests first on its similarity to the National Gallery picture, particularly the identical relining canvas and similar range of pigments. The extensive use of lead tin yellow, a pigment not in general use after 1725, is taken as a sign of age; it was rediscovered in the 1940s, however, and has been found in recent fakes.

The even manner in which the painting fluoresces under ultraviolet light is taken as a sign that the surface has not been disturbed by repainting — although there could be other explanations, such as the unifying effect of a fixative varnish. They interpret a pattern of dots and patches of fluorescence as paste used for the relining which has oozed through abrasions in the linen and not been painted over, another sign of age.

Effects seen under ultraviolet light are notoriously difficult to interpret; scientists normally use the ultraviolet lamp to alert them to problems which are then analysed by other methods. Indeed, one of the Getty's most unlikely statements about the picture seems to be based on a misreading of ultraviolet effects. In a signed memorandum, Andrea Rothe informed me that "The preparatory drawing, executed in lead or silver point, is visible only under ultraviolet light". No Flemish artist is recorded as using lead or silver point for underdrawing; charcoal, carbon-based ink or paint were the normal materials. Moreover, to show under ultraviolet light, the lines must be on the surface of the paint and are more likely to be shading than underdrawing.

It is the X-ray which provides evidence of overpainting as they penetrate the surface and can reveal the brushwork below or alterations under the surface paint.

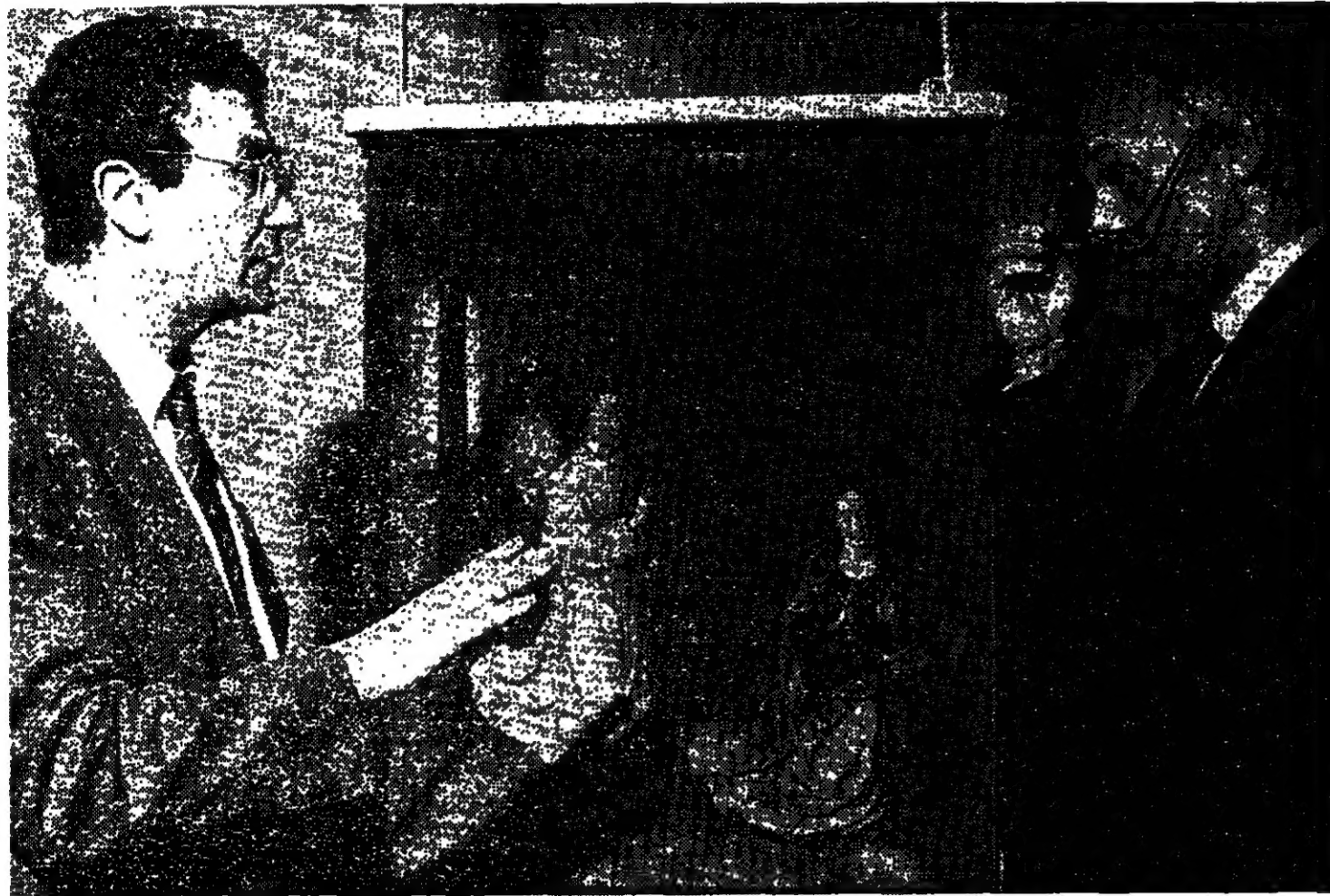
## A substantial area of modern overpaint

It can be seen that the red baldachin has been painted over the corner of the barrel-vaulted ceiling at the top right. More significantly, there is an alteration to the outline of the barrel-vault itself which runs on under the baldachin. It is visible to the naked eye at the top of the picture as a strip of clean grey paint toning in with the rather grimy grey paint of the rest of the wall. That suggests that the alteration was made a long time (or a lot of grime) after the picture was originally painted, and that the baldachin which is painted over it was also a later addition.

This coincides with the view of Mme. Maschelein and her colleagues at the Institut Royal in Brussels that the baldachin, curtains and other red draperies were all added by a later hand. They were judging from an X-ray photograph sent them by the Getty. Once it is accepted that the area of red drapery has been painted over the original composition, most of the scholars' problems with the painting are resolved: the baldachin's mistaken perspective, the angel's arm draped by a curtain, the combination of a bench with bed hangings and the absence of symbolic attributes to identify the scene. The latter, one may guess, were originally to be found in the substantial area now covered over.

There is reason to believe that this is a recent alteration to the picture. Fine strands of the Virgin's hair are painted straggling over the red hangings and they are painted with lead tin yellow whose existence was only rediscovered in the 1940s.

On the basis of the evidence currently available, it looks as if the painting is by a follower of Bouts with a substantial area of modern overpaint. This has come to light as a result of Tarica's criticisms and he deserves to be taken more seriously by the Getty. A careful investigation by independent experts could reveal that more of the surface is modern, as he asserts, or even evidence of the two hands he sees at work. His challenge can no longer be ignored.



Canvas clash: Alain Tarica (left) explains the Annunciation, which he believes is a fake, to the Getty Museum's Andrea Rothe

explain the picture to each other simultaneously without drawing breath. The outraged public affairs director, Philippa Calnan, asked Tarica to leave. "She bawled me out like the dirty washing", he complained subsequently.

After tempers had cooled, Rothe and his assistant took me, but not Tarica, patiently through the results of their investigations. Before discussing the salient points and the doubts they raise, the historical context of the painting should be sketched in.

## The chequered history of the painting

Count Guicciardi, the Milanese envoy to the Congress of Vienna in 1815, brought back with him four early Flemish paintings on linen which were inherited by various members of his family. In 1860 Sir Charles Eastlake, then director of the London National Gallery and

one of the connoisseurs who pioneered a revival of interest in early Flemish and Italian painting, purchased one of them, *The Entombment* in Milan. He was shown a mystery. It is believed by the art trade that, at some stage, the picture must have left Italy without an export licence. According to Italian sources they belonged at one time to Antonio Grandi, a leading Milanese art dealer who died in 1923, and passed to his heirs. His great-granddaughter, Laura Grandi, now Sotheby's representative in Milan, has never heard of the paintings belonging to her family. The family home in the fashionable heart of Milan was, she says, burnt down during the war and all her great-grandfather's archives were lost.

Grandi, however, was a close friend and collaborator of Luigi Cavenaghi, the restorer. Indeed, a sculptured portrait medallion of the two men adorns the entrance to the Brera honours their service to the museum. Did Cavenaghi restore the paintings for Grandi? Or could he have sold them to him, for he also dabbled as a dealer? History does not relate.

When Sotheby's offered *The Resurrection* for sale in 1980, the rediscovery caused a stir. Such was the enthusiasm of the National Gallery that it bid more than it had ever done at auction for any painting. It was outbid by Norton Simon, the millionaire art collector, who bought it for £1.87 million for his museum in Pasadena, California.

Derek Johns was then head of Sotheby's Old Master department and in 1984, now turned dealer, he produced *The Annunciation*, still from an undisclosed source. He says that he has seen the third

missing painting. *The Adoration*, which is now in Switzerland, "but will never come on the market".

What happened to the paintings between 1872 and 1980 remains a mystery. It is believed by the art trade that, at some stage, the picture must have left Italy without an export licence. According to Italian sources they belonged at one time to Antonio Grandi, a leading Milanese art dealer who died in 1923, and passed to his heirs. His great-granddaughter, Laura Grandi, now Sotheby's representative in Milan, has never heard of the paintings belonging to her family. The family home in the fashionable heart of Milan was, she says, burnt down during the war and all her great-grandfather's archives were lost.

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## WHAT THE ART WORLD'S EXPERTS THINK

Karel G. Boon, former keeper of prints and drawings, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam: "I have not seen the painting but there are features of the composition which seem strange." He cites the treatment of the figures, the bench beside the Virgin, the book resting on it and the draped angel's arm.

Lorne Campbell, Courtauld Institute: "There is nothing seriously wrong with the picture."

Colin Eisler, New York University: Originally enthusiastic about the painting, he now refuses to comment and may have changed his mind.

Majmir Frinta, State University of New York, Albany: "The canopy is of a type not used over a bench or throne but over a bed, its inappropriateness puzzles me greatly."

Stephen Godard, University of Kansas, Lawrence: "It is curious how the angel's hand is disappearing. The area of red cloth seems very large. It is some kind of disjunction and confusing."

Robert Koch, Princeton University: "It is a painting of the period of Bouts which bears every indication of being his work

and is in almost pristine condition."

Barbara Lane, City University of New York: "My first reaction on seeing the painting was 'this can't be Bouts'."

Cathérine Perle, Université Libre de Bruxelles: "Most probably by a late 15th-century follower of Bouts. The technical documents show later additions, notably the baldachin and red curtains. Given the opacity of the red, it is impossible to judge what was underneath."

Leonard Statton, City University of New York: "It is quite apparent that the Norton Simon and Getty pictures cannot be by the same hand... If they were smart they'd get some neutral agency to do an investigation and publish the results."

## Appliance of science to the rescue

The results of the tests made at the Getty have not been published and only one or two outsiders have seen documents such as the X-ray or ultraviolet photograph. The claim that the painting is in "pristine condition" is likely, however, to be fiercely argued once outside experts have had a chance to study the evidence.

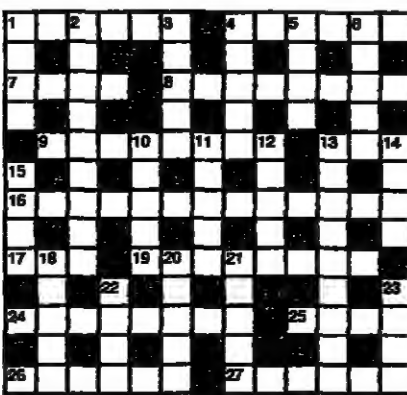
The Annunciation, if genuine, would be the best preserved example in the world of a 15th-century painting in tempera on linen. The cloth was painted very thinly in a technique akin to watercolour painting. Contemporary records reveal that thousands of pictures were painted on cloth in the 15th century but less than 100 survive. In an attempt to preserve them, many have been varnished or touched up with oil paint, which has generally destroyed the surface.

James Snyder, Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania: "There are some aspects of the painting that are indeed unusual (especially the veiled arm of the angel Gabriel that should be holding a sceptre). This is likely to be due to repaint or restoration in my mind."

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 891

ACROSS  
1 Headstrong (6)  
4 Tan (6)  
7 Be deflated (4)  
8 Interim (8)  
9 Tactical person (8)  
13 Artificial hair (3)  
16 Burgling (13)  
17 Misfortune (3)  
19 Hotel owner (8)  
24 Average (8)  
25 Bitterness (4)  
26 Submit (6)  
27 Rudder handle (6)

DOWN  
1 Trickery (9)  
2 Weariness (9)  
3 W Indian bar (3)  
4 E African master (5)  
5 Curse (4)  
6 Automaton (5)  
8 Bleeding worm (5)  
11 Deserve (5)



## SOLUTION TO NO 890

ACROSS: 1 Slacks 5 Tape 8 React 9 Rebirth 11 Meninges 13 Jet 15 Follow-through 17 Cage 18 Straight 21 Embargo 22 Parks 23 Bury 24 Seethe  
DOWN: 2 Learn 3 Cut 4 Superstitious 5 Tube 6 Parvenu 7 Prime 8 Facie 10 Hatchet man 12 Nook 14 Aria 16 Legible 19 Girth 20 Dray 22 Pie

## Tomorrow



Patterson: 100mph delivery

## The bowling machines

Times Profile of the West Indian fast bowlers

They are known as poor man's psychiatrists, but their clients are by no means poor. The majority are young professionals in their 20s and 30s, with well-paid jobs, as Wall Street stockbrokers and bankers, lawyers, company chairmen, advertising executives and boutique owners.

Every lunchtime and evening these supposedly hard-nosed New York yuppies wait patiently in establishments like the Gypsy Tea Kettle in mid-Manhattan to have their fortunes told by "psychic" tarot card readers, palmists, astrologers or numerologists.

The Gypsy Tea Kettle opened in 1930; psychics served tea there, read the leaves. Today, the 10 readers confine themselves to tarot cards. Clients sit in cafe-style booths, facing the reader, and get 15 minutes' advice for \$7 (plus tip).

"Psychicists charge a basic \$75 for 45 minutes, so we are cheaper", says Mrs Joan Story, who has been in the psychic business for many years. "Clients say that I tell them much more than a psychiatrist ever did."

In the past, most customers were housewives, or those who simply came out of curiosity. "Today most are business people, and although they want to know about their personal relationships, their biggest concern is their careers", Mrs Story says. "Are they going to be promoted, get a rise, should they take the new job? They are taking their readings very seriously."

Women ask about their forthcoming marriages. "Some don't listen, and then come to me in tears. If I see that someone is critically ill, I'll advise them to see a doctor."

Mary Duncan, aged 36, a stockbroker with a large Wall Street firm, explained: "I go regularly to Joan Story to relieve my anxiety, reduce stress, and to give me a sense of control in my life."

Mrs Duncan said that people of her age went to psychics for hope and stability. "We go for guidance about business decisions, to know the right moves to

make. "Psychics are more valuable than friends: they can see where you are going wrong and they give you hope for the future."

Bethany Birkett, who conducts her 15 minute readings in a restaurant and at the Toy Bar in Manhattan, was taken aback recently when a client's cards showed that he enjoyed killing people. "He was a professional mercenary, and asked me whether El Salvador was going to blow up because he thought it was a good place to do what he enjoyed doing."

A young woman who was about to be married consulted Miss Birkett. "I could see definite problems in the future, a lot of ambiguity surrounding the man. He was also there, and I read his cards while his fiancée was at the bar. I told him that I saw this ambiguity, and he leaned over and told me that he was probably going gay. He was disturbed by it, and he hadn't told the girl. I said he had better decide fast — they were supposed to get married in two months — and tell her what was happening."

Miss Birkett, who has just bought a crystal ball complete with instruction book, teaches tarot card reading at Inner Vision, a Manhattan Institute dedicated to the psychic sciences. "We have a lot of young professionals studying there in their spare time", she says. "I think the young professionals have become interested in tarot card readings and other psychic sciences — to the extent of studying it themselves — because they are more open to things going on around them today. They are well-established and don't care what other people think about them."

But there are dangers. Miss Birkett said: "There are thousands of people doing this in New York, and a lot of them are getting money under false pretences. They will tell you there is a curse on you and if you pay them they'll exorcise the curse. People get frightened and pay up."

Penny Symon

# How do gentlemen identify each other?



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# WEDNESDAY PAGE

## FIRST PERSON

There is no earthly reason — and possibly no heavenly one either — why you should wish to read this little piece, but it could just be that you carry the key to a tragedy that rips the heart out of at least one mother in this country every day. Last night it was my wife's turn.

For me, it was just an ordinary working day ending around 7pm, the most difficult decision having been whether a previously active 78-year-old's life could usefully be prolonged by the support of a modern intensive care unit ("we won't know unless we try"). Off with the coat in the bedroom (ours is a crowded flat with no proper place for anything), a quick glance at the carry-cot with its peaceful content of two-month-old Jessica, and then a happy meal for two in the living area discussing the events of an unremarkable start to the week.

At 7.45pm I went back to the bedroom. Jessica, asleep longer than usual after her 5.30pm feed, lay swaddled and face down: mustn't wake her (hell to pay), but it would be reassuring to see just a hint of movement from the little form. I looked closer and was seized with that icy panic that makes time stand still.

On turning her over, her perfect features were pale,

## I shouted to my wife as I tipped our beautiful baby upside down and compressed her chest with my thumb, giving her little panic-stricken kisses of life

drained of their vital force. She was warm but not blue so perhaps she hadn't suffocated.

I shouted to my wife as I tipped our beautiful baby upside down and compressed her chest rhythmically with my thumb, giving her little panic-stricken kisses of life.

My wife dialled for an ambulance and then, trained nurse and conscientious mother, she produced a little suction device — a simple pair of tubes and a bottle to clear a child's airway using your mouth — but the damn thing kept falling apart.

In desperation we continued. The ambulance men were marvellous, taking the stairs four at a time and whisking the little bundle off to their vehicle in a flurry of competence and cardiac massage. On learning I was a doctor they handed me a laryngoscope and to my relief I managed to pass an endotracheal tube through Jessica's mouth and between her vocal chords to secure her airway. The race was on. For every six chest compressions by the ambulance man I gave the Ambu bag a squeeze to push air into Jessica's lungs.

The traffic parted, a blue

sea seen by the light of the ambulance's omnipotent flasher: thank God people respect the narrow divide between life and death and pull over to give the former a chance. Please breathe, Jessica, please breathe.

It was two minutes before I understood why the ambulance men kept asking who the mother was, and they barely flinched to learn that I was both the doctor and the dad; none the less the ambulance — already crossing red lights and skirting bollards — seemed to go a

little faster. Crisp radio messages had alerted the paediatric team at the receiving hospital. They rushed her into the resuscitation room and, feeling like a spectator seeing through a glass darkly, I was led away from the scene of the action to a little room with welcome privacy, a cup of tea and no holds barred.

It was 20 minutes before they told me she wasn't going to make it but that they'd continue a bit longer. It was a kind gesture, but we'd felt from the outset she was dead. Everyone was very consid-

erate and courteously reticent. The young nurses, childless but intensely involved, were attentive and devoid of platitudes. The hospital chaplain was sympathetic, positive and marvellously understanding — could he have once been through this himself, as was rumoured?

The young and kindly consultant paediatrician, summoned from home and so used to this scenario, at least would be spared the tragedy of a half-survivor. My histrionic sense of being

centre stage, of wanting to enliven the long faces and show that grief could be borne with good humour, was closely followed by an intensely private sense of overwhelming misery, to be vented in remote corners, perhaps for weeks to come.

My wife joined me, brought to the hospital by an equally grief-stricken neighbour whom we had asked only two days previously to be a godfather to the little baby. And then Jessica was carried in to us looking oblivious, as if she was still merely sleeping, albeit pallid from some unseen Dracula. We could have stayed there forever, the three of us: time suspended over a sleeping baby too young to know suffering and sadness, or so we hoped. It seemed the most natural thing to kiss and cuddle her. She still bore her lovely baby smell. We cried and we kissed her but she wouldn't wake up. The chaplain baptised her, and it helped: so did the genuine and totally unimposed offer that we could see her any time we wished over the next couple of days.

The police arrived, kindly but caricatures, and went through the motions required of the law. Basic

information was recorded meticulously in longhand, then there was a brief external examination of the baby that seemed pointless: isn't the post-mortem sufficient, and how is your ordinary policeman, loyal and stout-hearted though he be, able to interpret external evidence that might indicate a battered baby when competent doctors sought this both before and after?

No matter — anything that solves the conundrum of cot death is welcome, and at least our policeman followed us home and inspected the circumstances: someone might eventually benefit. Her little carrycot still smelt of her, and there wasn't a trace of vomit on the sheets.

So now there is the paperwork and the necessary bureaucracy: the inquest after the autopsy, the funeral and the burial of so many hopes and uncertain aspirations. In a sense, grief remains a comfort, retaining the immediacy of the loved one and perhaps easing the stranglehold of the stark truth. Finally there will be just the memories of a baby girl physically unblemished who looked the soul of happiness and was almost too good to be true. We all have many blessings, but perhaps one shouldn't count them. Imogen, Jessica's three-year-old sister, summed it up an hour ago: "Don't worry Mummy, you must have another little baby. It's very precious."

Tim Williams

## COT DEATHS: THE FACTS

The sudden infant death syndrome ranks after congenital abnormalities as the commonest cause of death in babies between the ages of two weeks and one year. It has a peak incidence between the second and fourth months and kills about 1,200 otherwise apparently healthy British babies annually. The figures remain surprisingly constant, it affects all classes although there is a statistical relationship to poor home conditions and most often strikes in the winter months when viral infections are rampant.

Doctors now recognize a near-miss cot death syndrome which is estimated to affect between two and three times the numbers who die.

The current theory is that the immature respiratory centre in the brain, which controls breathing, switches off, usually during sleep, possibly as a reaction to an infection by one of the respiratory viruses which without this fatal complication would have only caused a transitory illness.

Research workers believe that there are other ways in which the respiratory centre may be affected: one possibility is laryngeal spasm induced by the inhalation of food which has been regurgitated because of an unusually lax sphincter between the stomach and gullet. Some doctors feel that an alarm system which warns parents if the baby stops breathing is helpful, but the evidence for this is disputed.

The baby's breathing can be started by stimulating a respiratory centre by shaking, or mouth to mouth resuscitation.

For parents, a sudden death without time for emotional adaptation heightens the tragedy and produces the inevitable feeling of guilt of the "if only variety".

Parents need much comfort and support for many months to come to terms with their grief and guilt. The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (4 Grosvenor Place, SW1, tel 01 235 1721), as well as contributing to research, gives parents nationwide counselling and advice.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

## An oil price rise to savour

It was the price tags on the bottles that brought me to an emergency stop in the basement of The Cornar Shop. Did they hold liquid gold or had someone's pen had a slip of the tongue? Badia a Colibubo was the priciest at £18.50 a litre, and Pasolini the cheapest at £8.80. In between, there was Traitoria Dell'Ugo at £11.93 and Castellare for £12.30.

Good olive oil has never been given away, but what could be the difference between these and the £3.90 a litre stuff from the Italian grocer round the corner that I had been using with pleasure for the past three years?

Extra virgin was the answer. For any purpose other than the Italian olive oil business, virginity is either absent or present. It is not a questionable commodity. But the oil trade recognizes four ranks of virginity, descending from extra-virgine via soprapfina virgine and fino virgine to vergine. These are the finest oils made simply by pressing olives in the time-honoured manner.

Lesser grades, found in bottles labelled olive oil or pure olive oil, have been subjected to rectification, a battery of physical and chemical deodorizing, de-acidifying and bleaching processes which render palatable oils made from indistinguishable fruit or the pulp left from the pressing of virgin oils. These stripped oils are blended with virgin oil to put back some taste.

In technical terms, the difference between the grades is expressed in percentages of oleic acid — the less the better. In practice, of course, what people pay for is flavour and aroma. It is here that questions of quality are matters of personal taste and judgement.

What vine variety, soil and sunshine are to wine, tree type, earth and weather are to olive oil. Writing of the southernmost Sicilian island of Pantelleria, one commentator observed that here "olive plants are trained into low, broad forms whose branches

## THE TIMES COOK

SHONA CRAWFORD POOLE



form umbrellas protected from the sun by dry walls. Here the olives share space with caper plants and the vines of Zibibbo, a type of Moscato. The oil here is exquisitely fine and perfumed, a rarity which, like the Moscato extra di Pantelleria, cannot be duplicated anywhere else."

In the same way that fine wine is for sippers not gulpers, the best olio extra vergine de oliva is generally used as a condiment, not a cooking medium. Now that I have made the acquaintance of Badia a Colibubo, Castellare, Traitoria Dell'Ugo and the Pasolini I concede that they are vastly more interesting than the bland oil I had been using. They are also lighter, brighter and altogether different from the sometimes rank and heavy virgin oils of Greece and Spain.

Serious oil buyers "taste" it by rubbing a few drops into their palms then sniffing the

aroma released into their cupped hands. This is a good way of appreciating the difference between rectified and virgin oils, and when the opportunity affords, of tasting extra virgin oils from a variety of growers and regions.

Once the taste buds have been lined up to take notice of these aristocratic oils, dishes that show them off are required. These tend to be exceptionally simple, like the warm salad of red peppers which came about because the peppers were not as ripe as they might have been and it was a bitter night to be eating raw, cold vegetables.

**Warm red pepper salad**  
Serves four  
2 or 3 ripe red peppers  
2 to 3 tablespoons olive oil  
Freshly ground black pepper

Pick the ripest, reddest peppers available and char the skins over a gas burner or under a grill until they are

blackened and blistered. Put the peppers in a paper or plastic bag for half an hour or so, after which time the skins will peel off easily.

Cut the peeled peppers into narrow strips, discarding the seeds and stalks. Put the strips in a shallow ovenproof dish and drizzle the oil over them. Give them a couple of turns of the pepper grinder and put the dish in a preheated, moderately hot oven (190°C/375°F, gas mark 5) for 10 to 15 minutes. The peppers should be hot and a bit floppy, but not really cooked.

Serve them alone, hot or warm, as a first course with good bread.

Extra virgin oil and garlic star in spaghetti alla olio e peperoncino, a dish made in Tuscany, Campania and Lazio.

**Spaghetti with oil and garlic**  
Serves four  
340g (12oz) spaghetti  
4 cloves garlic  
Salt  
1 small red pepper  
6 tablespoons olive oil  
Freshly ground black pepper

Cook the spaghetti in plenty of boiling salted water. To be authentically Italian it should be on the toothy side of tender — *al dente*.

Crush the garlic with a pinch of salt, using the flat of a knife against a board, and chop the pepper, discarding the seeds. Heat the oil in a frying pan and add the garlic and pepper. Simmer until the garlic is transparent but not browned.

Drain the spaghetti and put it in a warm bowl. Pour the oil, garlic and red pepper over it. Season with black pepper, toss and serve at once.

If the spaghetti is ready before the sauce, take it off the heat and pour a cupful of cold water or a few ice cubes into the pan. This will stop it cooking further, but keep it warm. Drain when the sauce is ready.

Miss Carrie James lived in a sloping cottage made from the timbers and square-headed nails of an old convict hulk: it overlooked Hobart and the harbour below. She was 94 and as scrawny as a heron, her speech was rambling and she craned her head forward as she tried to concentrate.

Her eyes were fierce in their intensity and she had total recall of the past, remembering Hobart as a convict town where the freed women stood behind their gates smoking clay pipes and spitting at the few passing settlers. "They hated the migrants," she told me. "They hated everyone." I was talking to an eye-witness of one of the most shameful episodes in British colonial history.

I met Carrie James in 1961, and she provided the inspiration for around 20 years of research and a novel.

Tasmania then seemed the most tranquil place you could imagine, yet it had been one of the bloodiest spots on earth. The British killed off animals and wiped out the indigenous population. The convicts shipped out from Britain and Ireland persevered against a horrible injustice. In just five years, from 1841 to 1845, as many as 15,546 male convicts were sent there, compared with 1,605 to New South Wales.

Some 50,000 men and 10,000 women were transported to Van Diemen's Land, which as Tasmania has a present-day population of only 430,000.

One woman was sent out for stealing a piece of ribbon. No wonder her tombstone was inscribed: "Farwell old world, I've had enough of thee". Another was so poor that she lived on potatoes and ate wisps of her hair after someone told her this would prevent worms. Desperate one night, she set fire to herself and burnt to death. Hobart was a tough little town.

I knew little of this until Carrie James recalled the "sad old days". The convicts were assigned as servants or

## The old lady of convict island

Behind Tasmania's beauty is an ugly past. A new novel telling its story has been inspired by a remarkable woman



Carrie James: eye-witness to a shameful colonial episode

joined the chain-gangs, building roads and bridges. If they defied authority, they were sent to a penal settlement. Macquarie Harbour was the first, founded in 1822 on the wild west coast. With violent storms from the Antarctic in the winter and rain for 300 days in the year, it was so remote and impractical that it was abandoned 10 years later and replaced by Port Arthur on the opposite coast.

Carrie remembered two convicts with special affection. "There was Charles, tall man, he got subversive you know, mother wouldn't have that. If he came to our home he was treated like a gentleman. He was never flogged, he came of a good family."

The other convict was a sailor. His crime was set out in a page of notes taken down by Carrie's father, George James, carriage decorator: "Richard Stanton of Her Majesty's Navy at your service. After service of 20 months an event happened that altogether altered the course of my life's career. Her Majesty Queen Victoria paid an official visit to the Fleet." When the sailors manned the yard-arms in salute, Stanton fell onto the deck, colliding with a midshipman. For this he was sentenced to two years transportation, which meant life. On his arrival he joined a settler's family as a servant. "I was given two large baskets of ladies' underclothing to wash and iron. I remarked I would not disgrace the flag I sailed under, and danced 'Jack's the lad with a hornpipe' on top of them."

For this impertinence, he was sent to Port Arthur for 25 lashes. An average of 22 per cent of male convicts were flogged, receiving anything from 19 to 50 strokes. Stanton was one of the few to be released and Carrie saw the scars on his back: "Like a piece of leather, scored, scored, great weals, cross to cross. Oh, can't they ruin a life. Always a cane on top of the Bible, never a cuddle, never a kiss."

The ruins of Port Arthur are all the more shocking because their surroundings are beautiful. It became the third largest town in the colony, with a church, hospital, officers' bungalows, a village green and parade ground — and, of course, the

Hence the large asylum nearby. Back in England I was haunted by the memory of Port Arthur and started my research, which has lingered over 20 years.

As I approached the climax to Swansdowne, I found that the end of transportation coincided with the date I had reached. Celebrations were held throughout the island in 1853 to mark the victory of the Anti-Transportation League as the Order-in-Council making Van Diemen's Land a penal colony was revoked.

The Hon Richard Dry, member for Launceston, made a speech declaring that the time had come to change the name of Van Diemen's Land — so evocative of crime and wretchedness — to the more euphonious one of Tasmania. Carrie kept the flowers I had brought her, though they must have been brittle by the time she wrote to me, sending a pair of excruciating pink bed socks she had knitted. She is dead now, but my memory of this compassionate old lady is bright. She was the inspiration for Swansdowne.

Daniel Farson

Swansdowne by Daniel Farson is published by Arrow Books, price £2.50.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Dateline Parris

Prefering the box to the House, wimpish Tory Matthew Parris is to resign his safe Derbyshire seat to present *if elected* *if elected*. I cannot wait for him to grill the Prime Minister about allegedly misleading the House. Two weeks ago I rang Parris to confirm a leak I had received about his imminent appointment. "What a flattering rumour," replied Parris in syrupy tones. "One I hope, ha, ha, you'll do your best to spread." Yesterday TV's new custodian of political morality denied lying - "I just deliberately misled you..."

### Mine Host

The Shop Bill is causing much soul searching in the Church of England. While St Albans Cathedral has continued to sell knick-knacks at its gift shop on Sundays, Bishop John Taylor said that if Sunday trading was permitted "We shall be admitting that the only God to be acknowledged in our midst is Mammon." Canterbury Cathedral took a lead by closing its gift shop two weeks ago. The recent General Synod was shocked to hear that a good pub guide to Kent was to take there on Sundays. The Archbishop of Canterbury was said to have been taken aback, and the shutters were duly brought down.

### House room

The GLC may have broken off links with News International, but its propaganda sheet, *The Londoner*, continues to distribute the *Sun's* ringleader. The explanation? "I suppose we could have vetoed its distribution, but we didn't. Anyway I can't talk to you because you're from *The Times*," said a spokesman.

### Revenge

Labour moderate Ben Lucas must be savouring his victory over a Militant-supported candidate in the weekend election for the chairmanship of the National Organization of Labour Students. It comes a week after the Labour party inquiry into Liverpool said it was "perturbed" by allegations of Militant violence in which Lucas was a victim. At the 1984 annual meeting of Liverpool College of Further Education Labour Club, Lucas and an NOLS national officer, John Fallon, asked for a copy of the membership list, the composition of which was a matter of speculation, and refused to give it back at the end of the meeting. Whereupon, it was alleged, two Militant youth activists beat them up. A complaint was lodged with Tony Mulhearn, the district party chairman, but no action was taken.

BARRY FANTONI



"Cold? Not me. Someone always pops in from the GLC and throws some money on the fire"

### Who's boss?

Neil Kinnock's chief press officer, Tricia Hewitt, is expecting a baby in August, becoming the third member of his close corps of press officers to leave to swell the party rank and file. Although she wants to return, I gather that Kinnock is fishing for at least a temporary replacement. "It may prove a problem," said one colleague. "He likes to be dominated by strong women like Tricia and his wife Glensy." Others, on the other hand, believe Kinnock could come to enjoy working with an assistant who took a slightly slacker grip on the reins.

### Surfacing again

Almost a year after police arrived in St Lucia to question former HMS Conqueror officer Neranda Sethia about the missing "Belgrano log book", new questions are to be asked about the investigation. On Friday, Labour foreign affairs spokesman George Foulkes is to ask the Attorney General if he is satisfied the inquiry into the disappearance has been properly conducted and whether it has been the subject of complaints. His questions follow a new flurry of police interest in Sethia, who, while admitting taking Admiralty charts from the submarine which sank the Belgrano, has always strongly denied pocketing the log book. Although last spring he was told he had been eliminated from the hunt, a naval officer friend in Portsmouth was questioned about Sethia's visit to Britain in the autumn. Intimidated by the police's interest, Sethia became convinced that a case was being built up against him. Could Inspector Ron Hardy be preparing another fruitless trip to the West Indies?

PHS

# Help victims—and beat crime

by John Spencer

When the women Christopher Meah had sexually abused won a sum of £17,000 damages against him in the High Court, it was hailed as a landmark decision. It was really no such thing, because the victims of sexual attacks, as of other crimes, have always been able to sue the criminal for damages in the civil courts. An action for damages is worth the trouble and risk involved only if the defendant is good for a large sum of money. The Meah case was exceptional only because the rapist was fully solvent.

Many criminals who are not worth suing civilly could be made to pay their victims something if, as with fines, the state undertook the tiresome and costly job of squeezing the money out of them. To this end, the criminal courts were given limited powers to make compensation orders in 1972, and in 1982 their powers were greatly extended. These new powers reflect a trend in modern penal thinking which condescends to notice the victim as well as the criminal. But it is widely felt that

compensation orders do not work well.

It is not merely that there are curious anomalies in when they are available, or that most criminals are too broke to pay anything. Frequently, it seems, orders are not made simply because it is nobody's job to ask for them. The victim is not entitled to ask the court for an order, so one is made only if the prosecution chooses to ask for it, or if the court happens to think of it unasked.

The root of the problem is that the victim of a crime still does not officially exist. In sharp contrast to Europe, where the victim has a right to be made a party to the prosecution, in England a public prosecution is a duel between the state and the accused. His inability to ask for a compensation order is only one of the results.

Probably, the most infuriating consequence for most victims is that they are often left completely in the dark about the progress of the case. The police generally tell

the victim when a suspect has been caught. But he is not told, let alone consulted, about what offences the suspect will be tried for. Nor does he have any say in the matter if the prosecution eventually bargains a plea of guilty to something trivial in return for a serious charge being dropped.

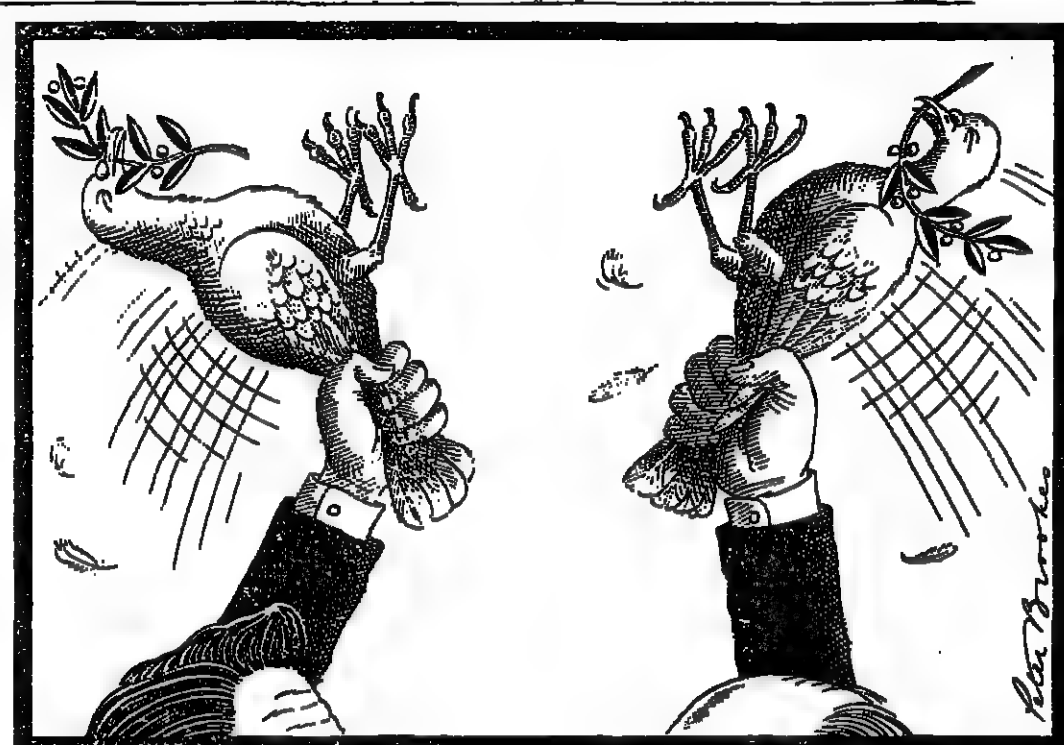
If the victim does go to court he may have no chance to give his side of the story. If the defendant pleads not guilty, the victim will be called as a prosecution witness and so will get his say. But the overwhelming majority of defendants plead guilty, and then no prosecution witnesses are called. After a guilty plea it is possible, and quite usual, for the defendant's lawyer to plead in mitigation of sentence that it was really the victim, not the defendant, who was to blame. If the court suspects the story told in mitigation to be false it has a discretion to call witnesses, but it is not bound to do so. The victim cannot insist on being heard.

In their recent study *Victims in the Criminal Justice System*, Joanna Shapland and her colleagues visited 276 people who had been robbed, battered, raped or assaulted, and asked them at intervals as the cases against their attackers progressed whether they were satisfied with what was going on. Although most were very pleased with the promptness, sympathy and efficiency of the police when they first arrived, many became increasingly disappointed with criminal justice as the case went on. By the end some were so fed up that they vowed they would not bother to report an offence another time.

This is serious. If the police are to catch those who commit crimes, they need above all the victims' co-operation. Greater consideration for the victim is not merely desirable as a painkiller for the ill effects of crime. It is essential as a weapon against crime itself.

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The author is tutor in law at Schyn College, Cambridge.

## Nicholas Ashford on the battle for European public opinion



# Take cover, they're talking peace again

to the Soviet leadership. The British and French forces are puny at present compared with the 10,000 or so nuclear warheads in the Soviet arsenal, but both countries plan a big expansion of their nuclear capacity over the next few years. In Britain's case the acquisition of Trident at a cost of more than £10 billion could mean an eight-fold increase in retaliatory strength to about 500 warheads by the year 2000.

Reagan has firmly rejected the Soviet proposal, arguing that the US does not have the authority to negotiate on behalf of third parties. Britain and France are equally adamant that they cannot accept restrictions which would make their nuclear deterrents obsolete in a few years time. The Americans believe that the Russians do not seriously expect them to give way on this issue and are using it as a bargaining chip to extract concessions from the Americans in other areas. However, it is recognized in Washington, as well as in London and Paris, that Britain and France could be made to appear dangerously isolated if the question of modernizing their forces was seen as the main obstacle to agreement on eliminating medium-range weapons from Europe.

This could become a major political issue in Britain, where both Labour and the Alliance are opposed to Trident. It could also add fuel to isolationist and anti-European sentiment in the US. The American counter-offer on medium-range missiles excludes the British and French nuclear forces. Instead Reagan has put forward a plan that appears to go

one better than Gorbachev's by seeking to eliminate all such missiles from Europe and Asia in three years.

Under the Reagan plan both sides would agree to reduce their missile launchers in Europe to 140 each during 1987 and there would be proportional reductions in Asia. There would be a further 50 per cent cut in Europe and Asia in 1988 leading to their total elimination the following year.

British and French missiles would be included later when (and if) Washington and Moscow made progress in scaling down their strategic weapons arsenals. Both have called for 50 per cent cuts in strategic weapons. If they were eventually able to reach agreement on a ceiling of 4,500 warheads each then, in the words of one senior American official, "there ought to be scope for multilateral talks involving Britain, France and China as well."

In his reply to Gorbachev, Reagan also insisted that there must be a "global" elimination of medium-range weapons, in other words that a solution must not exclude Asia. There was near panic in Tokyo when the Americans expressed initial interest in Gorbachev's January 15 proposals and General Edward Rowley, another Reagan arms adviser, had to be sent to the Far East to assure America's friends and allies in the region that he would not agree to a deal that excluded them. The Europeans were also worried that if SS-20s, which are highly mobile, were left in Soviet Asia they could easily be transported to Europe.

Although European govern-

ments profess full support for Reagan's latest offer, there is still concern that Europe might be left militarily vulnerable if the Americans agree to withdraw their Pershing and cruise missiles in exchange for the removal of Soviet SS-20s.

First, the Europeans, particularly West Germany, are worried about the presence of large numbers of short-range missiles in Eastern Europe.

Second, they are apprehensive that a "zero-zero" missile solution would weaken the transatlantic link between Western Europe and the US strategic deterrent and leave them vulnerable to the Warsaw Pact's huge superiority in conventional weapons. Although the Americans make a link between progress in the nuclear missile talks to progress in other security areas, US officials have admitted that an agreement on medium-range weapons is not conditional on a reduction in Soviet conventional forces.

In his speech at the opening of the Soviet party congress last week, Gorbachev indicated that the next US-Soviet summit would hinge on American readiness to reach a deal on medium-range weapons or a nuclear test ban. By making such linkage, even though he was not setting preconditions, he was clearly pressing for further US concessions.

He is unlikely to succeed as far as medium-range missiles are concerned. The American officials who have been in London have made it clear that Reagan's latest offer stands as it is (although there could be some flexibility on missiles in Asia) and that it is up to the Russians to move towards the US position. If they do then an agreement would be within reach.

Nor are the Americans prepared to budge on the question of a test ban. Apart from doubts on how such a ban could be verified, the Americans insist, in the words of one official, that "we must continue testing so long as we rely on nuclear weapons for our main line of defence." In other words there can be no comprehensive test ban at least until nuclear arsenals have been cut back.

The author is diplomatic correspondent of *The Times*.

## Now Nigeria looks for an African answer

After an initial period of Westminster-style democracy, a succession of military coups and a protracted civil war, Nigeria could be heading for one-party rule when General Babangida's military administration restores power to the civilians in 1990.

A commission recently started taking evidence on the best possible solution to Nigeria's inherently instability and is due to report at the end of the year. But, during a recent visit to Lagos, I was told by a senior government minister that a one-party state would appear the best solution.

"That would be the African — the Nigerian — solution," he said. "No Nigerian village has two or more chiefs. A chief is chosen and then he has to work with all the different groups and factions, taking their views into consideration before deciding on a policy. That way dissent is aired but it is done within the system. We cannot afford the vicious inter-party antagonisms of the last civilian period."

The minister was subsequently told that he had spoken out of turn by pre-empting the commission's

report, but his views are nevertheless thought to reflect those of Babangida, who is trying to run Nigeria along the lines of that hypothetical village chief.

Since he came to power in an army counter-coup last August, Babangida has surprised Nigerians not only by the speed of the changes he has made but also his distinctly consultative style of government.

Because he is anxious to know what people think, one of his first acts after assuming power was to repeal the draconian Decree 4 which had muzzled the press for the previous 20 months. Nigeria's 13 national dailies responded by being embarrassingly fawning towards his administration. But the real significance of the move was to demonstrate to the people that he intended to govern with their consent. His method is relatively simple: fly a kite, monitor the reaction, then act.

The public debate over the IMF was a perfect example of the doctrine. The IMF greeted the new administration's appeal for new lines of credit by making any further loans conditional on a stiff austerity package. But Nigerians

had grown xenophobic after years of being told that "foreigners had ripped off the country".

Babangida called for a national debate on whether to accept the IMF loan, then acceded to the popular view and refused it, again to newspaper acclaim. But he then brought in a "home-grown" austerity programme that went far beyond the IMF medicine. To general surprise there was no dissent. He had involved the army in the exercise so that when he imposed a wage cut on all government employees, including the army, there was no protest from the barracks.

When he asked a tribunal to examine the cases of ex-President Shagari and his deputy, Alex Ekwueme — both are still being held without trial — it recommended their release. After protests by the press, the Armed Forces Council gave an assurance that it would take the final decision after considering all points of view.

The press reaction was predictable given that it is largely owned by southern Christians who supported the United Party of Ni-

geria, the chief opposition to Shagari's National Party of Nigeria (NPN). But Babangida had been able to appease the NPN's supporters in the north by making clear his intention to release Shagari while assuring the south that he would take their views into account. In the meantime the public have been prepared for Shagari's release, which is now simply a matter of time.

Babangida damaged his reputation in the one occasion when he failed to follow his own ground rules. That was over his decision in January to join the Jiddah-based Islamic Conference Organization. Again the Christian-dominated press was furious. How could constitutionally secular Nigeria put its name to a body pledged to further the interests of Islam? Some Christian leaders spoke of a holy war unless the decision was reversed. Religious divisions which had been kept in check seemed likely to destabilize Babangida. For once he instructed the press to cease further comment on the issue since it was "against the national interest".

Andrew Jaspán

Andrew Phillips

## One solicitor who says no

The legal profession has made a monumental mess of its public relations in recent years. People now assume the worst of us. Perhaps they always have.

So it would be a double irony if this public cynicism worked in favour of fusion of solicitors and barristers simply because they are against it. Yet that is the prospect.

This is increased by the assiduous work of two small groups of lawyers. On one flank there has always been a broadly negative view of the split profession and, in particular, the part of the Bar within it. To them the still inhabited mainly by public school, Oxbridge men (few women yet) are irredeemable bastions of elitism, out of touch financially and culturally with the legal tribulations of ordinary folk.

The other, very different group, made up exclusively of solicitors, resents its exclusion as advocates from the higher courts and the concomitant denial of high judicial office.

After the recent publication of the "discussion proposals" of the Law Society's Contentious Business Committee, there is for the first time within the Society a focus for fusion. With Fleet Street almost unanimously in favour, the profession could find itself bounced into a shotgun marriage.

The authors of this paper have done a remarkably effective public relations job. Although their proposals would undoubtedly lead to a *de facto* fusion, with direct access by members of the public to what remained of the Bar, they have been sold to the public as no more than "a possible programme for reform". Fusion as such is not mentioned.

Apart from the charge of elitism, in which there is more misunderstanding than truth, the main engine for fusion in the public mind is "why should we have to pay for two lawyers when one will do?" In short, is not the split legal profession just another means of preserving jobs for the boys at public expense?

Fusion was, of course, one of the main issues considered by the Benson Royal Commission on Legal Services, which reported in 1979. It concluded firmly "that it is in the public interest for the legal profession to be organized, as at present, in two branches".

On the critical question of expense, having done its elaborate best to find and weigh the data, the Benson inquiry was unable to come to any firm conclusion. But what the majority of solicitors — myself included — will tell you is that using the Bar invariably saves their clients money. Barristers are, to put it simply, more cost effective.

This is partly a result of their having no direct contact with the public and its money. Thus they can function on comparatively modest overheads — perhaps one clerk and a secretary to five or six busy barristers, with low equipment costs.

Given those arrangements, most barristers are able to be either specialist advocates or true

backroom boys. Instructed by solicitors, who do all the laborious preparatory work, they can handle a prodigious number and variety of cases, often drawn from the length and breadth of the land. This enables them to become more adept, hence efficient, in pure law terms than any solicitor (even the specialists in the very large firms).

Moreover, their highly honed skills are available to, and used by, the whole profession. John Smith of Littleton can, with Legal Aid, use the same silk as Barclays.

Under the latest proposals, there is a real danger that the best at the Bar (the £100,000-plus-a-year men) will either be signed up by the big firms of solicitors, where they will be largely lost to the profession and public at large, or will set up their own firms. This will be made possible by the proposal to allow the public direct access to them. Partnerships at the Bar would consolidate that prospect.

By denying general practice and its clients equality of access to a thriving, "reserved" Bar, the smaller firms (in which eight out of 10 solicitors still work) would no longer be able adequately to serve the complete range of clientele, such as the larger local employers. General practice would eventually be stripped of its more challenging, rewarding work. That would drift to the larger centres with sufficient work to support the required expert staff.

That in turn would reinforce the existing fashion in favour of the "big boys", further downgrading general practice. The spiral of disadvantage would continue because recruiting young solicitors of the highest calibre to general practice would become an increasingly lost cause. Only those among the brightest who realized the virtues of the alternatives or had a clear sense of social obligation would eschew the lusher City pastures.

In an age when the parous effects of centralization are there for all to see, with the ablest people in all walks of life being inexorably leached out of our smaller or less favoured communities, the importance of retaining there a fair share of the best professional legal talent cannot be over-estimated. Such men and women are focal members of their communities for more than just their legal activities, as with general medical practitioners.

As regards integrity, the formal relationship between solicitors and barristers undoubtedly has a godsend tendency to strike the highest common denominator between them.

The solicitor in general practice is already pincered by plummeting conveyancing income and a barebones Legal Aid scheme. Yet his viability is of critical public importance because he carries the burden of servicing the growing legal needs of the whole community. Fuse at your peril.

The author is a solicitor in the City.

moreover... Miles Kingston

## Addresses with dressing

One of the strangest human impulses I know is the desire to have a long address. It starts in school days with the urge to write in your books and the fact that you are John Smith, Upper V, Gangrene Inc, Gangrene, Derbyshire, England, Britain, Europe, Earth, The Universe. When you discover that you are not the first schoolchild to think of this joke, in fact about the four billionth, you give it up and you forget all about it. You might well think, if you ever think about it at all, that the habit never comes back.

But it does. You go to college, you graduate in chemistry, you join a pharmaceutical firm called Gangrene Inc and pretty soon you find yourself working at their HQ at Outer Wall, EC1. You might expect that your address would then be John Smith, 155 Outer Wall, EC1.

But it isn't, is it? What it is is this:

John Smith  
Assistant Manager  
Sedatives Division  
Gangrene Inc  
5th Floor  
Gangrene House  
155 Outer Wall  
EC1

Now, this is nothing to do with the ambition of John Smith to have a long address. It is all to do with the ambition of the pharmaceutical boss, Lord Gangrene, to have an imposing address, and we haven't put on the post code or the number of the room. There is no need for the address to include Gangrene Inc (it is the only firm in the building) or Assistant Manager (everyone in Sedatives knows who John Smith is) or Gangrene House, which is just a fancy name given to the nondescript office block at 155 Outer Wall. But it all looks very imposing. It is as much as Lord Gangrene can do not to add, England, Europe, Earth.

At night Smith goes home to a very simple address. It is 155, Raglan Road, London W11 — the sort of address any postman could find, being as it is between 153 and 157 Raglan Road. But it is not the

address that John Smith uses when he writes letters. The address he writes from is:

John Smith  
"Oakview"  
155 Raglan Road  
Notting Hill  
London W11

By the standards of Gangrene Inc, this is quite simple stuff, but it is still fairly impressive to get five lines out of a three-line address. It doesn't make it any easier for the postman; no extra information is contained, only packaging. In fact, it sometimes makes it harder, because when people write back to John Smith they tend to include "Oakview" and leave out the number 155, and Raglan Road is a long road to find "Oakview".

Meanwhile, Lord Gangrene is going home to his house in the country, Gangrene Towers. It is a big house, with big grounds, occupying quite a pocket in Oxfordshire. Any letter addressed to Lord Gangrene, Gangrene Towers, Oxfordshire, will reach him. On the whole, however, he would rather you wrote to:

Lord Gangrene  
Gangrene Towers  
Little Gangrene  
Nr Gangrene Magna  
Old Gangrene  
Banbury  
Oxon

And perhaps you would like to write to him, especially if you feel that this long address business is getting out of hand. Not to his country house necessarily; drop a note to his London flat, and tell him so. His London flat is at 2 Cadogan Drive, SW3. However, if you should wish to use the full address, which he prefers, it is:

Lord Gangrene  
Apartment 12a  
Cadogan Court  
2 Cadogan Drive  
Port Street  
Knightsbridge  
London SW3

(This appeal has been issued by the League of Postmen and Injured Correspondents Against Long and Stupidly Complicated Addresses. For more information, write to *The Times*, London.)





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9DD Telephone: 01-481 4100

## ROADBLOCKS TO PEACE

Complaining about intimidation is not enough. It is clear that on Monday there were people in Northern Ireland who wished to go to work; it is equally clear that the authorities were unwilling to make all possible efforts to ensure their free passage through roadblocks and overt threats from demonstrators. This is a separate issue from the continuing argument over which side won the numbers game when the stoppage was over. The principle remains the same for one person going to work as it does for a thousand.

This government has done much to protect workers' individual rights when they are at risk from unions. That commitment has clearly not carried over the water. On Monday the Royal Ulster Constabulary appeared to operate an informal distinction between rescuing people who were physically at risk, and not intervening when people were simply being prevented from going about their business. Of

the Army, there was little to be seen.

In taking this approach, the government is sending dangerous signals both to strike organisers and to those who are inclined to defy the further strike calls for longer periods which are likely to follow. Well in advance of the strike, government spokesmen were confidently asserting that not only trouble but roadblocks and illegal picketing would be swiftly nipped in the bud. To fail to keep such promises is a sign of weakness which can only encourage the strikers and discourage those who disagree with them.

The government no doubt said to itself that a single-day stoppage did not justify anything but a low-key handling which did not overstretch the resources of the RUC and which kept the Army well out of sight. To play it this way, it could be argued, was to maximise the chances that the next round would take place in the form of talks between ministers and unionist poli-

ticians rather than as another strike. But those chances were always very slight. The strikers aim, among other things, was to strain the loyalties of the province's (mainly Protestant) policemen and to provoke riot and mayhem.

There is only a certain distance that a government can go to avoid this confrontation. Given the tactics on which unionist leaders have now settled, confrontation is beginning to look inevitable. There does not seem to be any good reason why the Army was not asked to remove roadblocks; they have accumulated plenty of the necessary experience.

Mrs Thatcher has so far tried to persuade unionist politicians that she is open to negotiation and persuasion. That attitude can not be indefinitely maintained if people's freedoms and even safety are being deliberately put at risk. A few other ministers hammering home these points would not go amiss.

## HERR KOHL'S TIDE OF TROUBLE

In recent months there has appeared to be a tedious little doubt about the likely outcome of West Germany's next general election, due early in 1987. Chancellor Kohl would have it, and comfortably. The present coalition of his own Christian Democrats, Herr Franz Josef Strauss's Christian Social Union and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher's Free Democrats would be returned for another four years in office. Even the personal popularity of the opposition Social Democrats' new leader, Herr Johannes Rau, would make no more than a small dent in the armour of the Kohl government. The Greens would have all the impact of a tomato hurled at a tank. That has been the conventional wisdom.

This week there is cause for a little more doubt. The Kohl government has been shaken by a striking electoral reverse in local elections in the state of Schleswig-Holstein, where the Christian Democrat vote sunk by almost six percentage points, nearly all of which went to the Social Democrats. Of course local elections in West Germany, like by-elections in Britain, are notoriously unreliable pointers. But behind this result there is also a quite exceptional challenge to the position of the Chancellor, and one which may not so swiftly be shaken off.

Last month public prosecutors in the Chancellor's native Land, the Rhineland-Palatinate, announced that they were opening a formal investigation into whether he had made false statements to a local parliamentary enquiry concerning illegal contributions to party funds. Not serving Chancellor in the history of the Federal Republic has faced such an investigation. Some opinion polls suggest that in the wake of this announcement the Chancellor's personal popularity rating fell by exactly the same amount as the Christian Democrat vote has now fallen in Schleswig-Holstein - some six percentage points. And in the next few days we may expect an announcement from the federal prosecutor's office as to whether or not a similar investigation will be opened into the Chancellor's testimony to a Bundestag commission on the same subject in the autumn of 1984, at the height of the "Flick Affair".

At that time the "Flick Affair", which had already brought the resignations of two top politicians, was widely compared to Watergate. Yet in the sixteen months since Chancellor Kohl's awkward testimony to that Bundestag commission, the muddy water has got no further than his

toccas. Now, however, it might just be creeping up to his ankles.

On the original point at issue - the laundering of big business contributions to political parties through tax-exempt "charitable" institutes - the best defence is probably that offered by Herr Franz Josef Strauss. Herr Strauss says in effect: "we all did it". This is essentially true. All the established parties augmented their finances in this fashion. Nowadays the law and, we trust, the practices have been changed. (The Greens, being not then established, seem to be the one party with clean hands; and have therefore been instrumental in keeping the topic to the fore.)

Unfortunately this "we all did it" was not quite the defence that Chancellor Kohl offered to the parliamentary commissions. Instead, he more than once observed that "he did not remember" this or "he did not know about" that.

Chancellor Kohl has not been helped by a senior colleague who suggested he might have had a "black-out" when answering the difficult questions in Mainz. Yet it is far too soon to proclaim his demise. If he has shown nothing else over the last few years, Chancellor Kohl has demonstrated a matchless talent to survive.

## FREEDOM ON A SUNDAY

The Government's attempt to end restrictions on Sunday trading has run into a greater degree of political resistance than ministers expected. This measure is being swamped by the backwash of unease on the Tory benches. In today's political climate MPs seem readier to listen to the Sabbatarian objections of their constituents than to the free-market principles of their leaders.

The bill's troubles have been exacerbated by the difficulty of demonstrating precise and immediate benefit. Complex (and inevitably artificial) calculations by the committee set up under Mr Robin Auld suggested that the freedom to open all shops on Sunday would marginally reduce retail employment. It would increase the efficiency of the retail sector by accelerating the disappearance of outlets which are already vulnerable. Many MPs - particularly but not exclusively in rural areas - have such outlets in their constituencies which they

would rather not see closed. Such calculations, however, miss the central point of the reform.

As the Auld committee concisely stated, "the law should not interfere in the conduct of human affairs unless it serves a justifiable purpose". The objects are clinging to a legal restriction which serves none. The existing law is anomalous, complicated and hard to enforce. And, for all its determined search for compromise, the Auld committee could frame no alternative set of restrictions which did not suffer from the same defects.

The alternatives are again being trotted out. Since some of them may be adopted it is useful to rank them in order of preference. The Lords' amendment, under which employees may refuse Sunday work, might create more part-time jobs but bristles with difficulties of religious discrimination in contracts of employment. Trading restrictions - allowing a limited

number of hours of opening on a Sunday - raises the problem of shops which open under the present law, as well as enforcement difficulties. These lead to probably the least objectionable compromise (though one which would sit uneasily alongside the Government's concern with local government's abuse of power): allowing councils to make their own decisions on Sunday trading in their areas.

It is important to be clear what is implied by any of these continued restrictions. However free the law, shops will not open on Sunday unless there is a real demand for their services. It is this demand that the objects are determined to frustrate, and the strength of their opposition itself implies that they believe this demand to be substantial. The construction of an anomalous law whose chief purpose is the denial of free choice is no proper cause for Parliament; still less for a Parliament of the present political complexion.

## Selling off water

From Mr David C. Gibbs  
Sir, I would like to clarify two of the matters referred to by Mr Green (February 14).

The mere act of digging a pond would not in itself attract a licence, but if water was taken from underground strata or by diverting a stream then a licence is necessary as a general rule.

However the good news for Mr Green is that in most parts of Pembrokeshire, and indeed in many other parts of West Wales, an abstraction from underground strata would not require a licence because of an order made by the former South West Wales River Authority.

Again, even if that exemption from a licence would not help Mr Green if he were to abstract water from a river or from a spring for use in the pond and if the fish bred in the pond were to be used for the table then an abstraction licence would not be necessary as the use

would be regarded as an agricultural use from an inland water source of supply.

With regard to the environmental services charge, this charge is paid by all charge payers on a rateable-value basis of assessment. The current rate in Mr Green's water authority's area is 1.49p in the pound. The charge is payable irrespective of the charge payer's drainage arrangements and in the circumstances mentioned by Mr Green of water running off from his farm buildings and disappearing into the sub-soil the discharge would require a discharge consent.

If that water were to pop up again as a stream on his land it would not itself require Mr Green to pay a charge for an abstraction licence as a licence would not be necessary in such circumstances. Yours faithfully, DAVID C. GIBBS, Welsh Water Authority, South Western Division, Hawthorn Rise, Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

## Disabled drivers

From Dr Peter Gugenheim  
Sir, Dr Gerald Michael's difficulty in refusing a request to a patient for a disabled driver's badge is only a manifestation of a wider problem within general practice.

What does your correspondent feel should be the GP's position? Why does he not use the same argument to avoid his responsibility for all sickness certification as there is frequently a conflict when the views of the doctor do not coincide with those of the patient.

This is just another example of the difficulty doctors have in weighing the interests of the community against the wishes of the individual. They must use their judgement to the best of their ability. Yours faithfully, P. S. GUGENHEIM, Hill House, 173 Stanmore Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Helping needy in cold spells

From Sir Kenneth Hutchison FRS  
Sir, The need for some method, even if less than perfect, of assessing the coldness of the climate in many different localities in Britain has been given new urgency through reports of people, usually advanced in years, who have died of hypothermia during the present cold spell. Many others may have suffered unnecessarily, being unsure of their qualification for reimbursement of the cost of the extra fuel required to maintain a reasonable temperature in their homes.

I would propose the revival of publication of "degree days". A degree day is a simple and effective measure of "coldness" during the preceding 24 hours. In practice they would be aggregated weekly or monthly as a measure of the extra fuel requirement of those claiming the fuel allowance. The "chill factor" can be disregarded for this purpose, as those at risk are unlikely to be out of doors for long.

The equipment required is simple. Any population centre responsible for assessing grants should be able to organize the reading of a thermometer at intervals during 24 hours, or preferably change the graphs on a recording thermometer, or better still find the Met Office willing and able to supply figures for each locality where they are wanted.

Yours faithfully, KENNETH HUTCHISON, 2 Arlington Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, February 27.

From Mrs Jean Furness  
Sir, It looks as though cold weather benefits for pensioners and others must always reach recipients too late to be of help for the spell for which they are intended. It is already recognised that different areas may receive different payments. Would it not be more sensible to make the differential apply to different seasons?

When Government can next raise our benefits by £2 a week, why not spread the additional annual £104 over December to March, followed by a sliding scale downwards to enable recipients to acclimatise to the decrease? In that

way £6 a week could be ensured for January and February, say £4 a week for December and March, leaving a lesser amount over for April and May. As a mother on social security I would welcome such a system.

The prospect of winter is always rather depressing. This system would even help us to look forward to it. Yours faithfully, JEAN FURNESS, 80B King Street, Norfolk, February 28.

From Dr John Whitelegg and others  
Sir, We are concerned about the current haphazard arrangements for dealing with DHSS payments to the elderly in response to cold weather needs.

As professional geographers we are disturbed that a systematic, reliable and independent system of reporting temperature variations has not been utilized by the DHSS in determining the circumstances under which payments can be made. Meteorological data exist at a fine level of detail across Britain; the computer software to link this with DHSS areas presents few problems and elementary physical geography would allow us to build in other important factors such as wind chill, exposure, altitude etc.

There are other dimensions to the problem. Housing type, size, and construction influence heat retention and loss and we would need to know the critical threshold below which payments would be made.

It is a source of some concern that those at risk from hypothermia are put at greater risk because of an administrative failure to put into action systematic monitoring of relevant data and the closely associated alert mechanisms which would be transmitted to every local DHSS office.

Yours faithfully, JOHN WHITELEGG, C.C. PARK, PETER VINCENT, GORDON CLARK, TONY GATRELL, University of Lancaster, Department of Geography, Lancaster, February 28.

### Mr Churchill's Bill

From Mr Peter Phelan and Mr Tim Godfrey

Sir, Your leader of February 24 about the Obscene Publications (Protection of Children, etc) (Amendment) Bill very properly set warning bells ringing. Mr Winston Churchill has now made a detailed response, concentrating - as, to a large extent, did your own leader - on the broadcasting aspects of the Bill.

Our concern is the effect which the Bill in its present form would have on the publishing and dissemination of many books and journals in the fields, among others, of sex and health education, medical science and art history and criticism.

Mr Churchill has stated that it is not his intention to create a form of censorship for such publications. And, indeed, they could not, by the wildest stretch of the imagination, be deemed obscene.

Unfortunately, the "intentions" of those who propose legislation are frequently betrayed by the actual words which finally make

their way on to the statute book and the subsequent interpretation of those words by government departments and the courts.

And there is nothing in the actual words now proposed which gives us any confidence at all that literary works of the kind described above and those who write, produce, sell - and indeed read them - would not be put at considerable risk.

It is for these reasons that we have made a detailed submission to the House of Commons committee currently considering the Bill, urging that such threats to our freedoms to publish and to read should be removed before Parliament is asked to approve any proposed legislation in this area.

Yours faithfully, PETER PHELAN, (Deputy Secretary, The Publishers Association), TIM GODFREY, (Director, The Booksellers Association), The Publishers Association, 19 Bedford Square, W.C1, February 27.

### Gospel to cities

From Mr Christopher Hammond  
Sir, The threat of redundancy to St Cuthbert's, Philbeach Gardens (letter from Fr Vine, February 22) must be a matter of national concern, for this is one of the finest of all Victorian churches.

Fr Vine suggests that the findings of the report, *Faith in the City*, would support the case for keeping the church open. However, the fact is that this report says very little about church buildings, indeed the symbolic value of churches seems to be entirely unrecognised.

In their preoccupation with temporal matters and programmes of social reform the authors of *Faith in the City* have failed to see that churches such as St Cuthbert's fulfil a primary function merely by existing; that they are in themselves an act of worship and are perpetual remind-

ers of spiritual values. To quote Dr W. F. Hook, the great nineteenth-century Vicar of Leeds "they are standing sermons" - and this is true not only for those who enter, but for those who pass by.

A situation such as that in the Earl's Court area, which is paralleled in so many other places, tests the commitment of the Church to the continuing preservation of the faith in the city, a commitment from which we must not allow ourselves to be diverted for social conditions must descend, and without which the programmes of reform as advocated in *Faith in the City* must be judged in purely secular terms.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER HAMMOND, 2 Balmoral Terrace, Shaw Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, February 24.

### Lost for words

From Mr Martin Blocksidge  
Sir, As a teacher of English in a school which provides many university engineering students, I should like to take issue with the six professors who (February 25) felt moved to write to you about the inadequate standards of English amongst their undergraduates.

All undergraduates reading science or engineering in the universities are required, in order to gain admission to any course, to pass an O-level examination called English Language. Whilst the requirements of examination boards differ in detail and emphasis, this subject always involves tests in comprehension and composition.

In comprehension, not only is the understanding of the detail of quite a complex passage required, but concise and consequential answers are needed in the candidate's own words, if he is to pass. Composition papers are specifically created to test the ability to use sophisticated and precise language. Errors of syntax and spelling are penalised.

I suggest that the reasons why science or engineering students frequently find difficulty in using their own language are more

complex. This country's educational system stresses specialisation, particularly at the post-O-level stage. A student who may, up to the age of 16, have written in a variety of modes every day of his school career, suddenly has the option to cease to do so. A student who opts for a mathematical or scientific career at the age of 16-plus can hardly be blamed if his verbal skills atrophy, as to exercise them at any length has become unnecessary. This situation can remain, presumably, for several years.

It might, therefore, be a better idea if the university departments represented by your correspondents made it widely known that they would welcome to their courses students who had taken, along with their mathematics and science, courses in history, literature or languages at advanced level. To specify, as entrance requirements, only mathematical and scientific subjects is to create the very situation which the professors deplore.

Yours faithfully, MARTIN BLOCKSIDGE, The Royal Grammar School, High Street, Guildford, Surrey, February 26.

### Economics of power stations

From Mr P. E. Watts  
Sir, Mr Hall (February 21) suggests that recent falls in international oil and coal prices make a new coal station more economic than Sizewell B, the pressurised water reactor proposed by the Central Electricity Generating Board. That is not so.

Falls in the price of oil affect the economics of a new coal station and Sizewell B equally. Each would reduce the CEBG's need to burn oil by a similar amount. A fall in coal prices does improve the relative position of a new coal station, but in fact Sizewell B still remains the more economic choice.

Mr Hall quotes in support of his view studies made by the Cambridge Energy Research Group at the request of the Sizewell inquiry inspector. I have not been able to identify the particular case he cites, i.e. oil and coal prices remaining at their 1981 levels in real terms. The CEBG did show the effect of constant fossil fuel prices from 1982 and in all cases examined Sizewell B had an economic advantage over a new coal station.

In the research group's exercises the lowest set of forecasts for coal prices assumed a 40 per cent fall in the real price of coal between 1980/81 and 1990, returning to the original level shortly after 2030. Even in this extreme case Sizewell B was more economic than a new coal station, so that the research group's exercises do not seem inconsistent with the present CEBG view.

Incidentally, the CEBG is not "continuing to place orders for the Sizewell B station". Design work is continuing, but work on main contracts must await the Secretary of State's consent. The board has to be ready to start work on the station, if authorised, in order to help meet the increasing demand for electricity and the coming need to replace the first generation Magnox stations. Yours sincerely, P. E. WATTS, Economic Adviser, Central Electricity Generating Board, Sudbury House, 15 Newgate Street, EC1, February 27.

### Police use of arms

From Mr Norman Gunton  
Sir, The report you gave on February 24 of a secret report on police use of guns should stimulate people to preserve the sensible but fast disappearing distinction between the Armed Services of the Crown and other civil services.

Too much is being asked of the policeman. The extent and complexity of law and of civil rights with which he is required to be expert is already beyond normal human capacity.

To be skilful and effective with weapons requires concentration and continuous training, for which the police do not have time, and attitudes and modes of behaviour which do not fit with those required for best work.

The Armed Services provide teams on call to the police when explosives are found or apprehended. The people who provide these services are very specially selected, trained and controlled by the Army and have only those duties.

The same arrangement should be made to meet any proper police requirement for armed support on two grounds - practicality and the need to preserve all the benefits to society and to policemen of our tradition of an unarmed police. Yours faithfully, N. G. GUNTON, 5 Cole Road, Twickenham, Middlesex.

### New schools for old

From Mrs Susan Wood  
Sir, New exams, a revised syllabus, more direct grant schools, a revamped voucher system - the ideas are endless in an effort to improve the educational standards of this country.

For my children, I am looking for a school with an adequate number of dedicated and highly motivated staff well qualified, highly respected and highly paid. Without this foundation the rest will crumble.

Yours faithfully, SUSAN WOOD, 33 Gills Hill, Radlett, Hertfordshire.

### Relative value test

From Mr Richard Chalkley  
Sir, Your correspondent, Mr R. J. Howes (February 27) might do well to reflect upon the level of overheads incurred by solicitors in private practice, e.g. rents, heat, light, rates, salaries, stationery, library, telephones, office equipment, etc. and the capital employed by them, if he wishes to make a true and accurate comparison.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD CHALKLEY, Invicta House, Pudding Lane, Maidstone, Kent.

### Mark of disfavour

From Mr M. R. D. Foot  
Sir, Have you left your own files behind in New Printing House Square? You say today (February 28) that the pound has never been lower in terms of the mark. Look up 1923, when it cost a thousand million marks to send a letter from Düsseldorf to London. Yours faithfully, M. R. D. FOOT, 45 Countess Road, NW5, February 28.

## ON THIS DAY

MARCH 5 1824

The most noteworthy item of news in this four-page issue was a paragraph announcing the formation of an institution which has survived to this day. Since then the National Lifeboat Institution (made Royal in 1898) has saved 113,000 lives.

### [Birth of the RNLI]

A public meeting was yesterday held at the City of London Tavern, for the purpose of forming a National Institution, to be supported by voluntary donations and subscriptions, for the preservation of life in cases of shipwreck on the coasts of the United Kingdom, and for affording assistance to persons rescued, and for conferring rewards on those who preserve their fellow-creatures from destruction; and also for granting relief to the destitute families of any who might unfortunately perish in attempting to save the lives of others. His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury took the chair, and explained the objects of the meeting, at the same time announcing that his Majesty had been pleased to become the Patron of the proposed institution. Several resolutions were then moved and agreed to, and the management of the affairs of the Institution committed to the care of a committee of 40 gentlemen, with a Treasurer, Secretary, and Assistants. The Bishop of London, the Bishop of Chester, Mr. Wilberforce, Mr. Manning, and Captain Manby, in moving some of the resolutions, warmly eulogized the objects of the Institution. Subscriptions to a considerable amount were announced as already received, and further sums were subscribed at the table. The meeting was but thinly attended, which was attributed to the shortness of the notice given for holding it, as well as to the active canvass going on for the East India Direction.

News may have been scarce but advertisements flourished; among them the following wares and purveyors:

[Advertisement.] - PINDIN'S PATENT TRUSSES, without Metallic Springs, 200, Fleet-street - GAWAN and Co. beg to inform the Public, that the following is from C. Everest, of Farningham, Kent, dated September 3, 1823: "I have to state for your satisfaction, that the Truss I had from you about two years ago has perfectly cured me; and although subject to the most laborious exercise, have for some time left it off much good resulted from wearing it at night. I have further to add, the one my father had answers very well, and there is no doubt of his being cured." [Advertisement.] - TOWERS' TONIC PILLS are an invaluable remedy in cases of bilious derangement, nausea, loss of appetite, head-ache, giddiness or dizziness, and for the other various symptoms which originate in a weakened state of the digestive organs. They do not contain a particle of mercury or antimony, and their operation is usually so gentle, as scarcely to appear the effect of a medicine. [Advertisement.] - ATKINSON'S BEAR'S GREASE for the growth of hair - Caution. - J. ATKINSON respectfully informs the public, that though his BEAR'S GREASE is sold by most respectable perfumers in London, there are still a number of little shops that sell an imitation, and some say it is; some of these imitations are only lard, marrow, &c., and are sold as low as 1s.

### Gospel to cities

From the Archdeacon of Middlesex  
Sir, The Rev John Vine (February 22) has chosen to outline the problem faced by him and his parochial church council in a letter to you.

The facts are that St Cuthbert's, Philbeach Gardens, was inadequately repaired after the last war and proper maintenance since then has been beyond the means of the congregation. Now a serious crisis has arisen over the roof.

The report, *Faith in the City*, reminds us of questions too long left unasked about what ministry is appropriate in an area like Earl's Court and what resources should be made available to support it.

It would be quite irresponsible to encourage the spending of public funds on one of four churches in the area before these questions have been asked and answered.

Fr Vine is wrong to say that "the Archdeacon of Middlesex insists that St Cuthbert's assets should be sold up". I have no authority to make such a statement, nor would I achieve anything.

What I must do is encourage all the churches in the area to consider together the requirements for mission and ministry in the light of the available resources, and to plan for action. It is no longer acceptable to think only of the maintenance of church buildings, even if they have some architectural merit.

No doubt we will all quote *Faith in the City* in support of what we want to do. The test will be if we can really, as a Church make the change from maintenance to mission.

Yours faithfully, TIMOTHY RAPHAEL, 12 St Ann's Villas, W11.

### Staying power

From Mrs Olive Fowler  
Sir, With longevity of news value today you might be interested to know that in 1915, at the age of 11, I acquired a goat and soon graduated to a pedigree Jersey cow called Iceamden. So I have been making butter for 70 years. Yours, OLIVE FOWLER, Snakes Harbour, Cowfold, Horsham, Sussex.







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## CAN YOU DEAL WITH TOP PEOPLE?

**£11,000 neg. Mayfair**

The Chairman and Chief Executive of an international Retail and Manufacturing group needs a PA with director level experience and a strong commercial background. As well as immaculate secretarial skills (100/60) you will have confidence, poise and savoir faire to enable you to deal effectively with eminent people. This is a demanding role for which total commitment and a flexible attitude to working hours are pre-requisites. A car driver and non smoker is preferred. Age 25-35.

Telephone 01-499 0092

**Senior Secretaries**

## THE CITY NEEDS YOU TEMPORARILY!

**£11,000**

If you have good secretarial skills and WP experience on Word, IBM PC with daisywheel, IBM Displaywriter, IBM 5250, Olivetti 2010, ETV 300 ET 351, Dextra Wordstar, Wordperfect, Xerox 640 and 650 you have temporary work for you. Top rates for top assignments.

Telephone 01-606 1611

**Senior Secretaries**

## PATHWAYS TO PROPERTY

**£9,000+**

A well established and widely respected property conglomerate based in lavish central London offices needs a secretary with sound shorthand, audio and typing skills to assist a dynamic duo who are carving a name for themselves in this highly competitive world. The staff are fun - the work thrilling - the benefits great and you will gain experience, success and much, much more.

Age 23+

Telephone 01-589 4422

**Senior Secretaries**

## PA IN INVESTMENT

**Circa £11,000**

As PA/Secretary to the Managing Director of Investment in a top merchant bank in ECA, you will be working with a man who recognises the importance of first class support.

This is a new position and will demand professionalism and the ability to liaise with leading City figures, arranging extensive business and social engagements. Excellent presentation and skills of 100/60 will be rewarded with a competitive package, including immediate mortgage subsidy.

Age 25/35

Telephone 01-606 1611

**Senior Secretaries**

## MAKE YOURSELF FASHIONABLE

**£9,000/£10,000 West End**

The Fashion Director of a leading West End store is seeking a Personal Assistant who has confidence, maturity and a sense of style. You will be involved in fashion shows, helping the models and liaising with the designers. This is a varied and rewarding position if you are aged 24+. Skills 90/60. Size 10/12.

Telephone 01-499 0092

**Senior Secretaries**

## MARKETING OPPORTUNITY

**£10,000 negotiable**

Involvement is the key word for this exciting position working in a small PR/marketing consultancy in E1.

You will be part of a young, dynamic team who are responsible for promoting the Docklands area.

Enthusiasm, initiative and a smart presentation will be essential when dealing with a wide variety of clients. Accurate s/f, typing and knowledge of WP are required.

Age 21/27

Telephone 01-606 1611

**Senior Secretaries**

## CALLING 'MONEYPENNY'

**Knightsbridge**

Diplomacy, integrity and sound educational background are needed for the unique opportunity. You will work for two top international management consultants who connect at the very highest defence levels. If you have outgrown your first secretarial post and have fast, accurate typing, together with the ability to take on board all the diverse responsibilities for arranging seminars, presentations and itineraries - call us now. Age 21+. Salary £5,500.

Telephone 01-589 4422

**Senior Secretaries**

## ORGANISER

**£11,000**

Be your own boss in this prestigious City company. Organise & run the office, liaise with senior executives, arrange luncheon meetings etc. If you are responsible, organised, energetic, a good team player and a good communicator, please apply to: Mrs. M. Skemp, City/Phone now, (Rec. Con.).

CITY: 01-481 2345  
WEST END: 01-938 2188

**abbatt**

## INTERNATIONAL

**£10,500+**

Large international company needs dynamic Sec PA to the Director of Personnel. Good s/f, WP skills, personal plus very responsible. Excellent presentation and skills of 100/60 will be rewarded with a competitive package, including immediate mortgage subsidy.

Age 25/35

CITY: 01-481 2345  
WEST END: 01-938 2188

**abbatt**

## MARKETING

**£10,000**

The large computer company is looking for an excellent Sec PA to the Director of Marketing. Good s/f, WP skills, personal plus very responsible. Excellent presentation and skills of 100/60 will be rewarded with a competitive package, including immediate mortgage subsidy.

Age 25/35

CITY: 01-481 2345  
WEST END: 01-938 2188

**abbatt**

## PROGRESSION

**£9,500**

Career progression is the byword in this young expanding computer Co. They now seek an experienced Sec/Sec with good s/f, WP skills, personal plus very responsible. Excellent presentation and skills of 100/60 will be rewarded with a competitive package, including immediate mortgage subsidy.

Age 25/35

CITY: 01-481 2345  
WEST END: 01-938 2188

**abbatt**

## ADVERTISING

**£9,000+**

Good organiser? Bright personality? Looking for a real challenge? An exciting opportunity to work for a leading advertising agency. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the agency, liaising with clients, managing the staff and ensuring the smooth running of the business. Salary £9,000+.

Age 21+

CITY: 01-481 2345  
WEST END: 01-938 2188

**abbatt**

## DESIGN FOR LEISURE

**£9,500**

An exciting opportunity for a secretary with enthusiasm and personality to join this award winning architectural/design company who specialise in the leisure industry both in the UK and internationally.

In this fast moving environment you will be meeting deadlines and seeing individual projects through to completion. Constant telephone and client liaison. PA duties plus secretarial back-up and good skills (100/60) essential.

Age 21-25

01-499 9175

**FINESSE APPOINTMENTS LTD**

**PA TO MD WORKING**

**£10,000**

With a company like this, you will be working for a dynamic and successful MD who is looking for a PA who can handle a wide range of responsibilities. The MD is a highly motivated and energetic individual who is looking for a PA who can handle a wide range of responsibilities. The MD is a highly motivated and energetic individual who is looking for a PA who can handle a wide range of responsibilities.

Age 21-25

01-499 9175

**FINESSE APPOINTMENTS LTD**

## TELEVISION

**£10,000**

World Research and Marketing Ltd. is a leading television production company. We are looking for a PA who can handle a wide range of responsibilities. The PA will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, liaising with clients, managing the staff and ensuring the smooth running of the business. Salary £10,000.

Age 21+

01-730 5148

**JAYGAR**

## PA/OFFICE MANAGER

For small busy publishing firm: must have at least three years experience and good organising abilities. Salary in the range of £8,500-£9,500.

Write with CV to: Margaret Chalmers, 71 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3BN.

## ROOM AT THE TOP...

For mature secretary PA to work in the Chairman's office of international public company in Knightsbridge. Discretion, meticulous with detail, able to take pressure and get things done. Salary £10,000-£11,000.

Age 21-25

01-499 9175

**FINESSE APPOINTMENTS LTD**

## PA/SECRETARY

For a dynamic and successful MD who is looking for a PA who can handle a wide range of responsibilities. The PA will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, liaising with clients, managing the staff and ensuring the smooth running of the business. Salary £10,000.

Age 21+

01-730 5148

**JAYGAR**

## TOP LEGAL SECRETARY/PA

To work for a young dynamic solicitor within a highly successful but aggressive financial services group. The work is demanding and varied and will suit a person who can work under pressure and give real commitment to the job. Our solicitor is looking for 'right hand' and this is an opportunity to become really involved in legal work. Salary negotiable with immediate start. Non-smoker. Please call 01-499 0088 Ref KTC.

Age 21-25

01-499 9175

**FINESSE APPOINTMENTS LTD**

## CHAIRMAN'S PA

**£10,000+**

The Chairman of an Underwriting Agency at Lloyd's needs a PA/Sec. with the willingness to adapt to a wide variety of work and outside interests. You should be aged 22-30 with first class secretarial skills, including the ability to take accurate minutes. If you would like to form part of a small but lively and friendly team where there may be the chance to take on executive responsibilities in the future, please ring:

586 3535

## Crone Corkill

**Recruitment Consultants**

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Age 21-25

01-499 9175

**FINESSE APPOINTMENTS LTD**

## KENNINGTON ARCHITECTS PA

A senior partner in a practice of 10 people is looking for someone who has a good sense of humour and is happy to work with. Must have good s/f, WP skills, personal plus very responsible. Excellent presentation and skills of 100/60 will be rewarded with a competitive package, including immediate mortgage subsidy.

Age 25/35

CITY: 01-481 2345  
WEST END: 01-938 2188

## NORMA SKEMP

01-481 2345  
01-938 2188

## TWO SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATORS

A group of Professional Medical Societies located at The Royal College of Surgeons require two Secretary/Senior Administrators to be responsible for the day to day running of their affairs. In addition to normal secretarial duties, the post includes the taking of minutes and their transcription, sample book keeping and subscription management. Experience with an IBM Computer/Word Processor using Multimate an advantage. Applicants must have experience in all aspects of office administration and be able to work on their own initiative.

Salary on Wiltshire scale 4 DMB5 - £9,272, according to experience plus London weighting of £1,000.

Applications including a full CV to The Honorary Secretary, RACS Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3PN

## P.A. to Managing Director

of financial institution required to deal with all aspects of administration of finance. Must have BA degree or equivalent in commercial banking with at least 3 years commercial experience. Fluent Arabic essential - drivers licence also necessary.

Please reply with CV to: BOX C55, C/- The Times, PO Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1.

## PA/ SECRETARY

Want to see the world? Want to earn £16,000 pa? But the emphasis is on 'earn'?

Someone is required who has experience as a PA/Sec. in a financial institution. The person must be a first class typist, have excellent s/f, WP skills, personal plus very responsible. Excellent presentation and skills of 100/60 will be rewarded with a competitive package, including immediate mortgage subsidy.

Age 25/35

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Age 25/35

CITY: 01-481 2345  
WEST END: 01-938 2188

## LEONARD GROUSE ASSOCIATES LTD

123 Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7HR

The Managing Director of this successful life and Personal Finance company is looking for a PA/Sec. to assist him in his day to day running of the company. The PA/Sec. will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, liaising with clients, managing the staff and ensuring the smooth running of the business. Salary £10,000.

Age 21+

01-481 2345

## EXPERIENCED SECRETARY REQUIRED

For a busy Chelsea Estate Agents. Excellent secretarial skills, pleasant outgoing manner and ability to use own initiative.

Salary £9,000

Ring 01-351 2385

## SECRETARY TO PARTNER

With a dynamic and successful business partner, require an experienced secretary to assist in the day to day running of the business. The secretary will be responsible for the day to day running of the business, liaising with clients, managing the staff and ensuring the smooth running of the business. Salary £10,000.

Age 21+

01-481 2345

## PA/SECRETARY to partner LINCOLNS INN

Solicitor requires PA/secretary to help in very interesting and varied law practice involving international companies, and historic houses and art collections. Ability to type in French would be useful. Friendly firm, in beautiful offices overlooking quiet square. Top salary for the right applicant. G S Brown, 10 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QG. 01-242 6141.

## Adland Plus

RECEPTIONIST/PA (Mature Board)

with enthusiasm and dedication for new advertising to currently moving to new premises. Proactive, friendly and accurate typing skill £9,000.

AD AGY

urgently requires secretary for Director and his team Good skills £9,000 - £9,500

PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

with modern computer age seek Sec/PA with good skills for newly appointed Director of Operations £9,000 - £9,500

TEL: MADGE, VAL OR TRICIA ON 01 636 2116

## Sales Admin/PA to £10,000

Assisting the Regional Manager of this well-known high-tech office equipment manufacturer, your role will be largely administrative as you will have a junior secretary to absorb most of the typing. You must be outgoing and ingenious with at least two years' secretarial experience. Rusty SH and WP skills useful.

## GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

7 PRINCES STREET, W1. 01-629 7262

## OFFICE MANAGER

Look for this insurance company, recently, need an experienced, personable, and reliable office manager to take over the day to day running of the company. The office manager will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, liaising with clients, managing the staff and ensuring the smooth running of the business. Salary £10,000.

Age 21+

01-481 2345

## PRODUCTION PA

Excellent opportunity for an excellent PA/Sec. to assist in the day to day running of the company. The PA/Sec. will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, liaising with clients, managing the staff and ensuring the smooth running of the business. Salary £10,000.

Age 21+

01-481 2345

## ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY (Shorthand) 25+

For a busy business, require an experienced administrative secretary to assist in the day to day running of the business. The administrative secretary will be responsible for the day to day running of the business, liaising with clients, managing the staff and ensuring the smooth running of the business. Salary £10,000.

Age 21+

01-481 2345

## PA/SECRETARY

For a busy business, require an experienced PA/secretary to assist in the day to day running of the business. The PA/secretary will be responsible for the day to day running of the business, liaising with clients, managing the staff and ensuring the smooth running of the business. Salary £10,000.

Age 21+

01-481 2345

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Age 21+

01-481 2345

## STUDIO - Sales/Liaison

Successful Studio with a long established reputation in the industry is looking for a sales and liaison officer to assist in the day to day running of the business. The sales and liaison officer will be responsible for the day to day running of the business, liaising with clients, managing the staff and ensuring the smooth running of the business. Salary £10,000.

Age 21+

01-481 2345

## Advertising PA

Good PA Secretary to assist with advertising work. Must have good s/f, WP skills, personal plus very responsible. Excellent presentation and skills of 100/60 will be rewarded with a competitive package, including immediate mortgage subsidy.

Age 25/35

CITY: 01-481 2345  
WEST END: 01-938 2188

## Pathfinders

Recruitment Consultants

## PA/SECRETARY

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Age 21+

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# F150%NS UP.

Fisons preliminary results for 1985 show record pre-tax profits of £72.3 million, up 50% on 1984. This represents the fifth successive year of major achievement. During the period profits have grown from £3.8 million in 1980 to their current high.

The growth in profits was accompanied by continued improvement in quality of earnings. Return on capital employed at 23.9% was up on 1984, whilst earnings per share rose from 18.8p to 24.3p.

From a market capitalization of £41 million in 1981, Fisons is now valued at over £1 billion. Given the strength of the growth in Group profits, the Board is recommending a final dividend of 3.34p net per ordinary share, making 5.5p net for the full year: a 22% increase on 1984.

#### Fisons Formula for Success.

These excellent results reflect careful long-term planning and rigorous follow-through. At the beginning of the decade, Fisons management team implemented a corporate strategy which has restructured and refocussed the Company.

This strategy was based on the following criteria.

1. To operate only in inherently attractive industries with a long-term growth and profit potential.
2. To operate only in industries where Fisons would be a highly effective competitor.
3. To establish a high quality and well motivated management team to ensure efficient implementation.

The success of our strategy is evident from the record results produced by all three of our Divisions, each of which has achieved an all-time high in both sales and profits.

#### Pharmaceutical Division.

The Pharmaceutical Division has

maintained its position as the leading earner in the Group with sales of £220.8 million (up from £198.5 million in 1984) and a record profit of £39 million, which represents a 25% increase.

The Division's performance in North America is particularly impressive: sales increasing by over 40%.

Applications for the registration of nedocromil sodium were made in a number of European countries; whilst it is premature to make predictions of success until regulatory approvals are obtained, the clinical trials of this product look most encouraging.

#### Scientific Equipment.

The Scientific Equipment Division is now contributing more than ever to Group performance. Both sales at £358.2 million and profits at £19.2 million are records.

Over the past 5 years Fisons has been the fastest growing major supplier of scientific laboratory equipment in the world.

#### Horticulture Division.

Fisons horticultural activities have returned profits of £8.7 million in 1985, 50% higher than in 1984, on a 7% increase in sales.

This strong performance can be attributed to both the UK and the North American market, where our overall development continues to be impressive.

#### Major International Group.

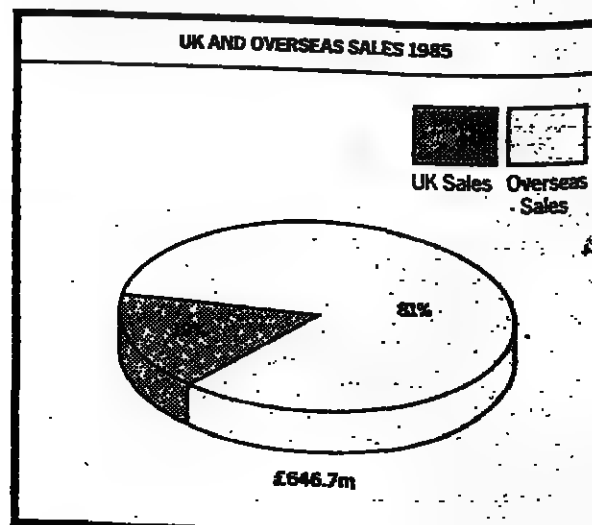
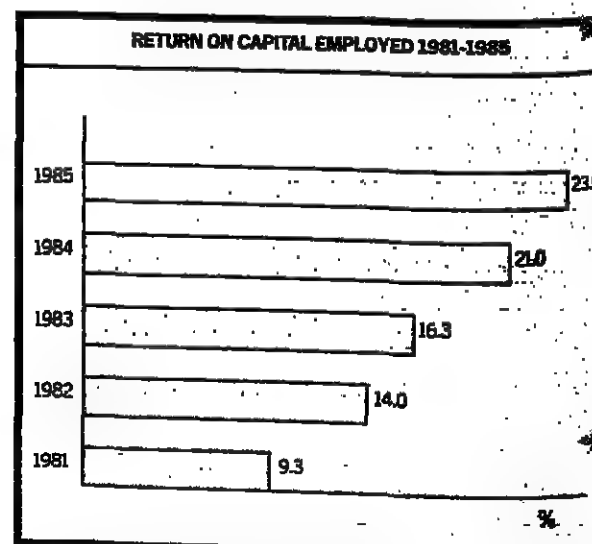
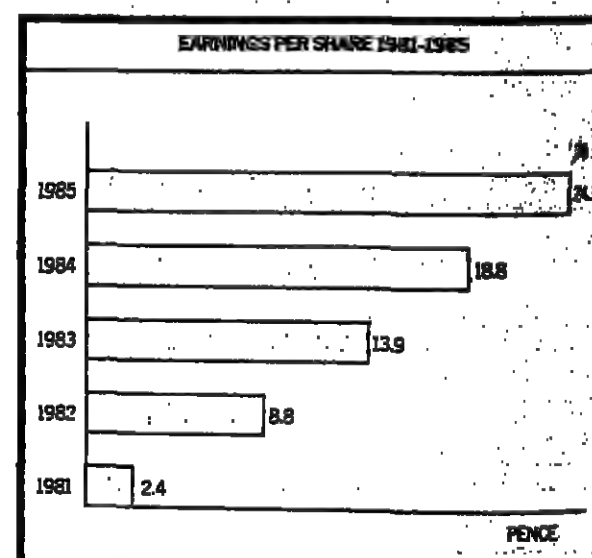
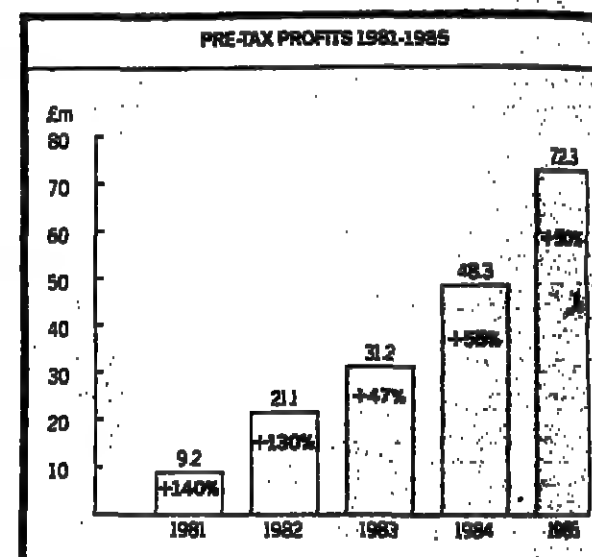
Throughout the 1980's the growth of each of our three divisions has been backed by capital investment and augmented by selective acquisitions around the world.

Fisons is now established as a major international company, with over 80% of sales made overseas.

#### The Future.

It is Fisons intention to maintain its highly successful strategy in the second half of this decade.

From a sound business base we can now look to the future with even greater confidence than ever.



# FISONS



## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1281.3 (+14.8)  
FT-SE 100  
1548.9 (+14.0)  
USM (Datastream)  
15.13 (-0.12)  
THE POUND  
US dollar  
1.4615 (+0.0210)  
W German mark  
3.2182 (+0.0210)  
Trade-weighted  
73.3 (+0.8)

Beer output  
down 6%

Beer production, which last year declined only marginally, dropped 6.2 per cent in January compared with the same month last year, said the Brewers' Society. High stocks in the trade at the end of December would have accounted for only some of the January decrease, the Society admitted.

## 467 millionaires

The Unilested Securities Marketers created 467 cash and paper millionaires in its first five years, according to Touche Ross, the accountants.

## Fisons jumps

Fisons, the pharmaceutical, horticulture and scientific equipment company, lifted pretax profits from £48.3 million to £72.3 million in 1985. Turnover was up from £553 million to £647 million and the final dividend is raised from 2.7p to 3.3p.

Temps, page 19

## Hawley up

Hawley Group lifted profits from £28.5 million to £33 million before tax in the year to December 31 and has raised the dividend from 3.4 cents to 4.6 cents. Temps, page 19.

## SE members

The Stock Exchange Council has announced that applications from Merrill Lynch Ltd, Merrill Lynch Equities Ltd and Nomura International Ltd to become corporate members of the exchange have been approved.

## BT all-clear

British Telecom expects to complete its acquisition of 31 per cent of the shares in the Miel Corporation within the next few days. This follows clearance by regulatory bodies.

## BR grant

The British Rail Property Board has approved the grant of an exclusive arrangement to the Greycoat Group under which a joint planning application will be submitted shortly to Westminster City Council concerning proposals for an important urban renewal and redevelopment scheme in the Charing Cross area.

## USM placing

Grievous, Grant is arranging the placing of the Unilested Securities Market of 850,000 ordinary shares in BPP Holdings at 160p each. BPP publishes study texts for accountancy and other professional examinations.

## Bid cleared

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has decided not to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the proposed merger between McKee Brothers and Newman-Tonks Group.

## Hanley sold

Substock Johnson's US subsidiary, Glengary Corp, has acquired the assets of the specialist brick manufacturer Hanley Brick Inc for \$5.16 million (£3.5 million) in cash.

## Capel deal

The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp said it has acquired for an undisclosed price the 70.1 per cent of James Capel and Co, the stockbroker, it did not own.

## Share success

Applications for shares in Jarvis Porter Group closed within a minute yesterday, heavily oversubscribed.

## Record year for leasing

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Leasing of industrial and commercial assets like plant, equipment, buildings, vehicles and aircraft increased by 43 per cent last year to a record £5,757 million as companies sought to beat taxation changes. Overall investment last year grew by 13 per cent.

A new assessment of performance in 1985 compared with that of 1984 by the 73 members of the Equipment Leasing Association suggested that acceleration of investment by companies in advance of the withdrawal of first-year capital allowances was only one factor behind the expansion. But Mr David Beaver,

NatWest surprises with  
20 per cent profits rise

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

National Westminster Bank yesterday announced better than expected results for 1985, reflecting an improvement in profits in the second half and a strong performance in domestic British banking operations.

The bank also benefited from an adjustment in its provisions against bad debt which lowered its tax charge.

NatWest reported pretax profits of £804 million, compared with £671 million the previous year, an increase of 20 per cent.

Most of the profits came from British banking which improved by 30 per cent to £526 million. International banking operations contributed £181 million, an increase of £10 million. The final dividend increased by 10.2 per cent to 28.2p.

The results were well above stock market expectations and bank shares, which did not enjoy the price increase which usually takes place before the bank reporting season, raced ahead. NatWest shares rose 30p from 709p before settling at 734p. The other clearing banks' shares rose between

17p and 25p during the day.

NatWest is the second bank to report good profits. Lloyds reported pretax profits of £561 million last week. Midland's results are due today and Barclays on Thursday.

Lord Boardman, the chairman of NatWest, said he viewed with horror the possibility of a tax on bank profits in the Budget, but that if a tax was imposed it should cover other financial services institutions and not just banks.

Commenting on the results, Mr Philip Wilkinson, group chief executive, said they gave a strong platform for progress. He added that the outlook for 1986 was good, with the prospect of lower interest rates and inflation and the beneficial effect of lower oil prices.

Provisions for bad debt fell slightly compared with the year before, from £351 million to £338 million but the provisions include an unusual £100 million transfer from general to specific provisions. The transfer represents provisions on sovereign risk, but the bank emphasized that it did not represent a more pessimistic



Lord Boardman: "horrified" at possibility of profits tax view of the likelihood of loans being repaid.

Mr Charles Green, the general manager of finance control, said that sovereign risk provisions qualify for tax relief if they are treated as specific.

Tax credits for the provision transfer were taken immediately and helped to reduce NatWest's tax charge by £23 million to £354 million.

Mr Green added that the bank had no exposure to

sovereign borrowers of more than 1 per cent of its loan book. There was, however, substantial provision against exposures to the shipping industry which was going through a difficult time.

The strongest performance came from British banking operations. A poor first half performance caused by the adverse effect of high interest rates on the bank's fixed rate loans, was corrected in the second half.

Mortgage lending contributed £44 million to profits. NatWest lost 60,000 current accounts last year to banks offering free in-credit banking, but won back 30,000 accounts in the six weeks since it introduced free banking.

NatWest yesterday imposed a 50p charge on all cheques cashed by Lloyds Bank customers in its branches. Lloyds responded by imposing a similar charge on all cheques cashed by NatWest customers.

A NatWest spokesman said the charge was imposed because the lack of charges was costing the bank more than it was costing Lloyds.

£110m bid  
for rival  
by Norton

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

The wave of takeover bids in the City continued yesterday when Norton Opax launched an ambitious £110 million offer for its bigger security printing rival, McCorquodale.

The bid drew a swift rejection from McCorquodale which is more than twice as large as Norton Opax in terms of stock market value.

There was intense speculation that there would be a counter-bid from J Bibby, the South African-controlled agricultural produce group. McCorquodale shares leapt 20p to 230p before settling at 220p - still 8p clear of the value of Norton's bid.

McCorquodale's advisers will be seeking a Stock Exchange inquiry into dealings in the company's shares before yesterday's announcement. They have risen substantially since *The Times* first reported the possibility of a hostile bid from Norton Opax last week.

Mr Richard Hanwell, Norton's chief executive, said that rationalization in the printing industry was so rapid at present that the company could not miss the opportunity of making substantial acquisitions.

He said there was enormous potential for improving McCorquodale's profit margins, claiming that his own company's margins in cheque printing were 4 per cent higher than McCorquodale's. In lottery ticket printing, margins were 14 per cent higher, and in cartons, Norton achieved 18 per cent more profit on sales than McCorquodale.

Mr Hanwell thought it "unlikely" that the takeover proposal would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission despite the fact that the combined group would have more than 40 per cent of the British cheque printing market.

Norton, which has built up a 2.1 per cent stake in McCorquodale, is offering 24 of its shares and 7 new Norton Opax redeemable convertible preference shares for every 20 McCorquodale shares. Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, has underwritten a cash alternative offer worth 191p for each McCorquodale share.

Mr John Wood, McCorquodale's chief executive, condemned the offer as "cheeky and totally inadequate". Mr Hanwell poured scorn on McCorquodale's recent profit performance. His own company was, on the other hand, forecasting pretax profits in the year to the end of this month of £5 million against £2.2 million last time.

Dollar hit by dip  
in US economy

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Selling pressure in the foreign exchange markets shifted dramatically from the pound to the dollar yesterday, on further evidence of an economic slowdown in the United States and an unexpected rise last month in Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves.

The announcement of a 0.6 per cent drop in the American index of leading indicators in January, and a fall in yields in the US bond market to their lowest for more than eight years, produced heavy selling of the dollar yesterday.

Against the market, the dollar fell below the key DM2.20 level and the yen/dollar rate dropped below 179.

The pound was a major beneficiary of the dollar's weakness, initially rising nearly 2 cents to \$1.46 and later gaining further ground on publication of figures for Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves to close at \$1.4615. The pound ended at 3.2233 against the mark.

The reserves figures, released by the Treasury, showed an underlying rise in reserves of \$112 million (£77 million) last month, following an increase of \$132 million in January. Both advances confounded market expectations.

However, unlike in January, when the reserves were distorted by a large European Economic Community budget abatement, there were no special factors in the February figures, officials said.

The reserves rose by an actual \$250 million from \$15.56 billion at the end of

January to \$15.81 billion at the end of February. This actual rise converts to an underlying increase of \$112 million after adjustment for public sector borrowing and repayments.

Britain's reserves, while further bolstering the pound, were less important yesterday than the US leading indicators, which point to a sharp dip in the American economy.

The 0.6 per cent drop in the index of leading indicators last month compared with a 1.5 per cent rise in December. The fall was the biggest since last April and followed six consecutive monthly increases.

The main factor was a decline in contracts and orders for plant and equipment last month. Net business formation, money supply and the average work week also declined. In contrast, factory orders for consumer goods, weekly unemployment benefit, building permits, stock prices and raw material prices all rose.

The fall in the index reinforced the view of foreign exchange dealers that a reduction in the Federal Reserve Board's discount rate is imminent because of the weakness of the economy and the continuing fall in US money market rates and bond yields.

There are general expectations of a cut in West Germany's official interest rates at the council meeting of its central bank tomorrow. This has hindered the rise of the mark against both the dollar and sterling.

## Tate buys into Berisford

By Our Business Correspondent

Speculation is growing that Tate & Lyle may be about to intervene in the fast-moving battle for control of S & W Berisford, the commodity trading and sugar refining group.

Stock market sources said that the Mr Cube sugar and foods company had picked up a stake of at least 2 per cent in Berisford, which has already attracted the attentions of Hillside Holdings, the British foods group, and Ferruzzi, an Italian agricultural produce combine.

Tate & Lyle confirmed it was interested in parts, if not all, of Berisford's business but

thought that monopoly problems might prohibit a full-scale bid.

Tate & Lyle has about 40 per cent of the domestic market for sugar while Berisford has 50 per cent through British Sugar.

Mr James Kerr Muir, Tate's finance director, said that most of the price competition in the British market came from imported sugar.

He also said Tate & Lyle and British Sugar combined would still have less of the total European market in sugar than Ferruzzi, which is the Berisford board's favoured bidder.

Banks worried by Mexico's  
sudden hard line on debt

International banks are facing a difficult decision after Mexico made it clear that it can no longer shoulder its \$97 billion debt alone.

Mexico confirmed in a statement on Monday that it had insisted on concessions from its foreign creditors for a week of private discussions with senior government and banking officials in Washington.

Specifically, it wants a substantial reduction in interest rates on debt payments of more than \$10 billion due this year.

Long seen by bankers as the model debtor of Latin America, Mexico has suddenly taken a hard line because of the crash in international oil prices. As the world's fourth largest oil producer, it expects to lose \$6 billion this year, assuming prices remain at their present rate.

The chairman of the US Federal Reserve, Mr Paul Volcker, with whom Mexican

officials spoke last week, has acknowledged that there will be a real problem unless Mexico's financial health is restored.

Mexican Treasury officials will be negotiating with the big international banks in the coming weeks - Mexico owes British banks an estimated \$13 billion - and their bargaining position is expected to be aggressive following guidelines set by President Miguel de la Madrid.

Stopping short of announcing the default many had expected, the President declared it was unjust and impossible for Mexico to pay alone the price of the banks' lending spree of recent years.

"Our creditors must now make sacrifices and efforts equivalent, at least, to those of the Mexican people," he said.

Monday's government statement said Mexico's aim was to find a lasting solution to the problem of the Mexican debt.

Wolseley  
in £109m  
takeover

By Cliff Feltham

Wolseley-Hughes, the central heating and plumbing equipment group, has agreed after months of talks to pay £109 million for Grovewood Securities, the industrial conglomerate arm of BAT.

It is Wolseley-Hughes's biggest deal, and will dramatically increase the size of its business. The Grovewood operation includes a chain of builders' merchants, a plastics manufacturer, suppliers of electrical components and spare parts for tractors, a technical consultancy and computer software house.

But Wolseley-Hughes is not buying one of Grovewood's best-known assets - the Brands Hatch racing circuit. BAT, which acquired Grovewood as part of its £970 million takeover of Eagle Star in 1983, says it is still considering offers for this.

The health care side and certain property interests in Grovewood are also being hived off elsewhere for around £24 million.

Wolseley-Hughes is financing the acquisition with a one-for-three rights issue at 42.5p a share. In the stock market the shares, after falling before the announcement, closed 12p ahead at 58p.

At the same time Wolseley-Hughes announced half year profits up by 27 per cent to almost £17 million, and declared a dividend of 3.5p.

The Grovewood business is buying turned in trading profits last year of £18.5 million on turnover of over £195 million. The Ray and Harris chain of builders' merchants will give Wolseley-Hughes about 225 outlets in Britain.

Coloroll makes  
£10m bid

Coloroll, the wallpaper and home furnishings group, yesterday launched a £10.9 million bid for Staffordshire Pottery in which it has built an 8.9 per cent stake. The companies had been holding merger talks until Staffordshire suddenly broke them off.

## Barham deal

Barham Group, the media services company, is paying £2.4 million for Marcus Bohn Associates, which runs industrial management courses.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Is Goldsmith Argyll's  
secret weapon?

So far shareholders and interested bystanders have been permitted to see only the surface manoeuvres of Argyll in a masterful campaign against Guinness for control of Distillers. It is a campaign which Argyll has to win: the costs to which it is already committed - in the region of half a year's profits - would turn defeat into a rout. But Argyll, with a cash offer of 600p against Guinness's cash offer of 630.3p, cannot win unless Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, succeeds a second time in having the Guinness bid referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

To that end, Argyll will again lean heavily on the insights, personal relationships and persuasive powers of Alex Fletcher, until recently a junior minister at the Department of Trade and Industry and now an adviser to James Gulliver, at a fee, it is rumoured, too high for Tiny Rowland for whom any weapon against the DTI is normally beyond price.

The judgement in the case brought by Argyll against the Government, and in particular against Sir Godfrey Le Queux, chairman of the Monopolies Commission, claiming that Guinness's first bid for Distillers should not have been released by the Commission, may have some bearing. So, perhaps, might the publicity surrounding the rival bids, which at this stage is much more favourable to the Argyll cause and the benign Borrie than to Guinness, which is

also suffering from the battering taken by Morgan Grenfell, Guinness's merchant bankers.

Morgan through its successes and inventiveness has become too big a target for anyone to miss. Currently it is being portrayed as tilting at the Bank of England because it has arranged with a consortium of banks to take over the £111 million worth of Distillers shares it had acquired on Guinness's behalf, precisely to allay the Bank's qualms about Morgans having such a weight on its own balance sheet. Samuel Montagu, merchant bankers acting for Argyll in similar fashion are laughing all the way to the bank - the Midland Bank which happens to own Montagu and is a larger bank than Morgan Grenfell.

Argyll cannot afford to rely solely on the recommendation of the Office of Fair Trading. Lightning may not strike twice. The alternative is a higher offer, which is both a high risk strategy for Argyll and a challenge to the financing ingenuity of Citicorp and First Boston. But if a higher offer did emerge, so too would questions about stories now circulating about the unspoken deals the bold James Gulliver may have adumbrated with others interested in the future of Distillers if and when it fell to Argyll.

One name, inevitably, is Seagram. But the really fascinating one is Sir James Goldsmith. The two Jimmies in harness could poetically assist each other's ambitions.

## Dilemma for Chancellor

By mid-session yesterday in New York, the long bond was 50 cents away from making history. Quoted at 113.75, the stock only needed to hit a fraction below 114 1/4 before the yield big figure changed yet again, this time from 8 to 7.

Never in bond market trading, claim the pundits, have yields fallen so far and so fast. Just one month ago, the yield on the long bond was comfortably over 9 per cent and heading nowhere. It just goes to show, opine analysts, that the Saudis really do carry huge clout within Western economies. Ten years ago, they devastated inflation expectations by raising oil prices; now they are having the reverse effect by cutting Western energy costs.

The Fed, playing a *misère* hand along with other central banks, received some unexpected help in the cause of moderating rate cut hopes yesterday from the US Commerce Secretary, Malcolm Baldrige. Bonds in New York derived a huge boost from publication of the January leading indicators, which showed a decline of 0.6 per cent. This immediately fuelled hopes that the US economy was so weak that the Fed would find itself obliged to cut the discount rate, as a stimulant.

Enter the obliging Baldrige. He

pointed out that the leading indicators index had risen unchecked for the past six months; that hiccups in indices occurred quite frequently; that the December index had been revised upwards; and that the US would show healthy near-term growth. To no avail.

For gilt traders, yesterday was party time until sterling sagged, as usual, in mid-afternoon.

It is hard, in the short term, to see how the sense of fiesta can be broken. provided sterling holds up. Trading today will be dominated by hopes that West Germany's central bank will cut its Lombard rate tomorrow. On a longer time-scale, the market has apparently convinced itself that entry to the safe haven of EMS lies only a matter of weeks away. But sterling remains the unknown factor.

It will ill behoove the Chancellor to frustrate market hopes on Budget Day by adopting a Hamlet-like stance towards the question of EMS entry. But, equally, spare a thought for his dilemma. Oper meets in Geneva just before the Budget - on March 18 - and the Chancellor stands a fair chance of being well and truly "Yamanied". Some claim the true Budget will be contained in the erratum clip, available after the Sheikh, as well as the Chancellor, has spoken.

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WALL STREET

New York (AP-DJ) - Stock prices fell off step with the continuing rally in the bond market and finished lower in active trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 12.38 to 1,696.67. The blue chip indicator spent all but the first five minutes of the session at lower levels, and ended the final 30 minutes of trading with a 19-point loss before regaining some ground.

AMR	52	52	Exxon Corp	52	52	Pfizer	31	59
ASA	37	37	Fed Ex Svs	74	74	PepsiCo	24	24
AT&T	37	37	Pharmacia	24	24	Pharmacia	10	10
Chrysler	75	74	IBM	110	110	Procter & Gamble	59	59
Colgate	38	38	Fat Int Snop	58	58	Polaroid	69	69
Conoco	38	38	GenCorp	31	31	Raychem	59	59
Eastman	38	38	Johnson & Johnson	52	52	Rockwell	39	39
Exxon	38	38	McKesson	52	52	Schlumberger	59	59
General Electric	38	38	Merck	52	52	Smith Barney	59	59
IBM	110	110	Novartis	52	52	Union Carbide	59	59
Johnson & Johnson	52	52	Pfizer	52	52	Wendell	59	59
McKesson	52	52	Roche	52	52	Wendell	59	59
Merck	52	52	Schering	52	52	Wendell	59	59
Novartis	52	52	Smith Barney	59	59	Wendell	59	59
Pfizer	52	52	Union Carbide	59	59	Wendell	59	59
Roche	52	52	Wendell	59	59	Wendell	59	59
Schering	52	52	Wendell	59	59	Wendell	59	59
Schlumberger	59	59	Wendell	59	59	Wendell	59	59
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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The further slide in crude oil prices put the pound under renewed pressure on the foreign exchange markets yesterday. Sterling's sharp fall overnight was reflected in early dealings.

Sterling Index compared with 1975 was down at 72.5 (days)			
Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Exeter.			
MONEY MARKETS AN			
EURO M			
Base Rates %			
Clearing Banks 12%			
Finance House 13			
Discount Market Loans %			
Overnight High, 12% Low 11			
Weekly Index: 12%			
Treasury Bills (Discount %)			
Buying		Selling	
2 month 11½		2 month 12%	
3 month 11½		3 month 11½	
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)			
12 month 12½		2 month 12½-12¾	
12 month 12½-12¾		6 month 11½-11¾	
Trade Bills (Discount %)			
12 month 12½		2 month 12%	
12 month 12½		6 month 12½	
Interbank (%)			
Overnight open 12% close 12½			
12½-12¾		6 month 12½-12¾	
12½-12¾		9 month 12½-12¾	
12½-12¾		12 month 11½-11¾	
Treasury Deposits (%)			
12 months 12½		2 months 12½	
12 months 12½		3 months 12½	
12 months 12½		6 months 12½	
Local Authority Bonds (%)			
12 months 12½		2 months 13%-12¾	
12 months 13%-12¾		6 months 12½-12¾	
12 months 12½-12¾		12 months 12½-12¾	
Clearing Bank Bills (%)			
12 month 12½		3 month 12½-12¾	
12 month 12½		6 month 12½-12¾	
12 month 12½		12 month 12½-12¾	
Dollar CDs (%)			
12 month 7.70-7.65		6 month 7.70-7.65	
12 month 7.70-7.65		12 month 7.65-7.60	
DOLLAR FINANCIAL F			
Three Month Sterling			
Mar 95		Open	
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## TEMPUS

## Intal shot ensures Fisons runs

Fisons is like a racehorse owner who has prepared his thoroughbred for a big race but has not announced whether it will run. Punters assume it will enter the takeover fray but the company is not saying either way.

It easily passed the fitness test yesterday by announcing a 50 per cent increase in pretax profits for 1985 to £72.3 million, or £5 million better than most forecasts. It has a strong share price and cash in the bank. The combination suggests that it cannot be long before Fisons makes a bid.

Fisons denied yesterday that there had been any talks with Beecham, which, it has been suggested, might make a reverse takeover, but other deals are still possible.

The company points out that the existing businesses are growing quickly, helped by a series of small acquisitions. Last year profits in the pharmaceutical division rose by 25 per cent to £39 million before interest, aided by a good rise in sales of Intal, the asthma product, in America.

With related drugs, Intal accounts for roughly two-thirds of the pharmaceuticals business.

The American launch of the aerosol version will sustain growth this year, and after that much depends on Tladi, another asthma product, which has yet to be registered, although approval in at least one European market is expected this year.

Once launched, this product could be important for Fisons, although it is too early to say whether it will be as important as Zantac, has been for Glaxo. Meanwhile, the launch of Depocort, a heart drug, has been put back until next year.

Scientific equipment and horticulture were also strong performers. And these divisions offer plenty of scope for

expansion. Whereas there are few pharmaceutical companies available to purchase, there are many scientific equipment companies from which to choose. This means that Fisons can in theory make acquisitions more easily than, say, Glaxo, which has restricted itself to pharmaceuticals.

At the year end Fisons had £40 million net cash, even after spending £24 million on the acquisitions. And it admits that the bank is not the best place for this money. In time a cash pile could hinder earnings growth.

## Hawley Group

The rehabilitation of Mr Michael Ashcroft, chairman of Hawley Group, is virtually complete, to judge by the share price. Last July it sank below 70p but yesterday it touched 113p at one point, which means that it has recovered all the ground lost last year.

The comeback reflects the company's declared strategy of tidying up the empire. Investors had become anxious that the number of stakes held in quoted companies was detracting attention from the main business. Eighteen months ago there were five quoted subsidiaries but now there is none.

As a result the company claims to have a clean profile. Yesterday it produced figures

for 1985 which went some way to confirming the new shape. Profits were up from an adjusted £28.5 million to £33 million before tax and earnings per share were 30 per cent higher, at 12.9p.

The only problem for Hawley is that almost a third of the profits come from associates, of which by definition it does not have full control. However, the main associate is Cope Altman, where Mr Ashcroft is chairman, so he can claim to be highly influential. Last November he implied that he wanted to sell the 43 per cent stake in Cope, now worth £50 million, but this idea seems to have been put on the back-burner.

The requirement for cash has become less urgent, as Hawley recently raised \$80 million (£57 million) by issuing convertible preference shares.

Consequently its net bank borrowings now stand at just £25 million, against shareholders' funds of £100 million. That makes Hawley fairly liquid, so it cannot be long before there is renewed corporate activity. On Mr Ashcroft's timescale, long is any time after this week.

America, which accounted for 60 per cent of last year's profits, is the favoured area for expansion. Hawley is keen to build on its network of cleaning and maintenance services there. Last year the division increased its contribution by 74 per cent to £10.4 million before interest and more growth is in store.

Even after the rehabilitation, the shares are trading on less than 9 times earnings, which leaves plenty of scope for appreciation.

## Unilever

It is often the case that mature reflection will modify gut reaction. The stock

market's initial response to Unilever's 1985 results was to mark the shares up sharply to £15. In this case, the gut response will probably prove to be right.

The market was pleasantly surprised with pretax profits of £954 million, a 3 per cent increase on last year, achieved despite adverse exchange rate movements. Admittedly, most of the improvement was attributable to the first full-year's contribution from Brooke Bond, and this inevitably raises the question whether we can expect future profits growth without further acquisitions.

But the rationalization and investment programme of the last few years suggests that there will be solid profit growth next year. Unilever has cast off the majority of its fringe businesses, many of which were unprofitable. It has also been investing heavily in its core activities with the emphasis on geographical diversification, especially in the US where the once-moribund Lever Bros. is rising phoenix-like from the ashes of neglect.

Unilever will continue to make acquisitions as part of its general business strategy — to gain a foothold in new areas, especially the Pacific Basin, and to broaden its product base in markets where it is weak, such as Personal Products in the US. Whether it will make a jumbo acquisition on the scale of Beecham is another matter.

With year-end cash of nearly £500 million and the ability to borrow £1 billion more, the company can easily afford a major purchase.

Since losing Richardson-Vicks to Procter & Gamble last year there has been no obvious target for takeover and the group may hold off until some of the froth has gone out of the market.

## COMPANY NEWS

● **MICROVITEC:** For the year to December 31, 1985, the final dividend was 0.75p, making 1.25p. With figures for 1985, turnover was 29,743 (£4,800); gross profit 4,710 (£5,035); operating profit 1,020 (£2,316); pretax profit 1,147 (£2,640); earnings per share 2.7p (5.3p).

● **ALFRED MCALPINE:** Through its US subsidiary, Alfred McAlpine Minerals, the company has acquired Becker Sand & Gravel, a privately-owned company in Carolina, US, for \$12.35 million cash (about £8.6 million). Net profits before tax of the continuing operations of Becker for the year ending November 28, 1985, were about \$700,000 on a turnover of \$16 million. McAlpine estimates that after the acquisition, annual net profit before tax will exceed \$1.5 million in the first year and \$2 million afterwards. McAlpine says this purchase will establish the group as one of the leading producers of aggregates, roadstone and special gravels in the South-east of the US.

● **SMITH & NEPHEW ASSOCIATED COMPANIES:** The company has acquired the cold water orthopaedic cast business of Hexcel Corporation of the US, which supplies and manufactures synthetic orthopaedic splinting materials and is a supplier to Smith & Nephew. The consideration is about \$4 million (£2.78 million).

● **BURMAH OIL:** Burmah Speciality Chemicals has acquired the water management division of Clow Corporation for \$12 million (£8.3 million). The business, based in Pontiac, Michigan, will now be known as Burmah Technical Services.

● **KLEINWORT BENSON LONSDALE:** The company has completed the acquisition of the 70.1 per cent of Charlesworth & Company not already owned. The consideration was 22,042 ordinary shares, £109,300 in unlisted unsecured loan stock and £140,800 in cash. In addition, Charlesworth has repaid to the vendors loans of £300,000. Charlesworth has changed its name to Kleinwort Charlesworth.

● **MCCLENNIE BROS:** The group's proposed offer for Newman Tonks has been approved at an extraordinary meeting. The voting figures were 21.88 million in favour and 20.53 million against.

More company news on page 21

## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## ICI leads new rise as speculators return

The stock market bounded back strongly after Monday's falls. An initially dull start was shrugged aside as speculative fervour returned.

The main lead, however, came from the gilts, which were considerably stronger on the back of heavy demand in US credit markets. They closed with healthy gains to 2 1/2 points, also helped by the strength of the pound.

Leading equities ended with rises to double figures, led by ICI, up 33p at 957p, after comment and US support. National Westminster Bank also did well, ending 25p to the good at 734p after better-than-expected figures. This gave a boost to the entire banking sector, Midland, which reports tomorrow, finishing with an 8p gain at 487p. Insurances also improved, though brokers were in on the dull side. Commercial Union,

3p better at 277p, reports figures tomorrow. C & E Heath gave up 7p to 653p, however, also in the financial arena. Provident Financial jumped 39p to 399p after results and scrip proposals.

Elsewhere, Beecham added 5p at 355p after comment and P&O scored an 18p rise at 506p thanks to good options business.

On the bid front, Norton Opax, down 2p at 143p, made an offer for McCorquodale, which gained 12p to 223p. Coloroll returned from suspension to close down 2p at 186p, with an offer for Staffordshire Pottery, also back from suspension. Staffordshire Pottery finished at 118p, a fall of 1p.

Fisons, after better-than-expected profits, closed 7p ahead at 528p.

Speculative demand was responsible for gains in Parker Knoll A, up 12p at 295p, Avon Rubber, also 12p higher at 305p, and Brooke Tool Engineering, 8p firmer at 46p.

Wolesley Hughes added 7p to 513p after 478p as the Grovewood benefits outweighed the rights issue. AMS Industries lost 15p at 89p after Monday's cautious statement.

British Aerospace went 22p ahead to 558p after the recent Saudi Arabian contract. High-technology stocks met selective support. Cable and Wireless were 30p up at 667p, BT added 4p at 208p, and Amstrad jumped 24p at 390p on the lunch of the new disc system.

Stores saw Woolworth rise 18p to 506p as the sector reversed a dull start. GUS A, however, met profit-taking which left it 25p lower at 884p. Golds shed about 50 cents.

## RECENT ISSUES

## EQUITIES

Abbott Mead V (180p)	230
Ashley (L) (135p)	232 up 2
Brookmount (180p)	180
Chart FL (85p)	90
Chancery Secs (83p)	71
Cranwick P (95p)	109
Davidson P (180p)	165
Dialene (128p)	170
Ferguson (J) (10p)	23
Granville Surface (56p)	71
Inoco (55p)	50 dn 1
JS Pathology (180p)	263
Kearfold (118p)	115 dn 3
Lexicon (115p)	2115
Macro 4 (105p)	140
Mervale Moore (115p)	125
Microsystems (127p)	138 up 3
Norank Sys (90p)	100
Really Useful (530p)	365
SAC Int (100p)	130
SPP (125p)	157 dn 1
Templeton (215p)	220 up 2
Sigmax (101p)	86
Snowdon & B (97p)	112
Spice (80p)	83
Tech Corp (130p)	214
Underwoods (180p)	184
Wellcome (120p)	181 up 7

## W York Hosp (90p)

Wicks (140p) 147 dn 1

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Cray Elec F/P	296
Hartwells N/P	7
Peel Higgs F/P	475
Porter Chad F/P	4 up 1
Safeway UK	244 1/2 up 2
Stormguard F/P	20
Wates N/P	24 dn 1
Westland N/P	13

(Issue price in brackets).

## Damage claim

Buckingham Corp, a member of the Whitbread North America Group, has started arbitration proceedings against Oy Alko AB and Baron Philippe de Rothschild on a damages claim under the exclusive distribution agreements which Buckingham had for the two companies' products. Finlandia vodka and Mouton Cadet wines.

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	475p +12
Cookson	558 +22
Brit Aerospace	350 +24
Amstrad	136 +10
Burmastex	141 +9
Bridon	295 +12
Parker Knoll A	305 +12
Avon Rubber	212 +5
S and W Beristford	1480p +30
Unilever	223 +13
McCorquodale	508 +18
Woolworth	255 +11
Irr Vis	506 +18
P and O	268 +38
Natwest	276 +15
Topps Est	48 +8
Blue Arrow	235 +10
Brooke Tool	667 +30
Start Plus	357 +33
Cable & Wire	389 +38
ICI	
Prov Financial	

FALLS: Michael Peters 145-28 89-15  
AMS Inds 80-5  
Telemetrix 114-10  
Blagden Ins

● **RAEBURN INVESTMENT TRUST:** The holdings in the trust under the management of the Prudential group of companies are 4.61 million ordinary shares (17.25 per cent).

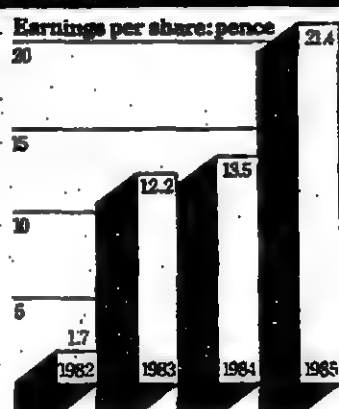
## TACE PLC

Results for the year to the 30th September, 1985

...“another record year”...

- Profit before tax increased 41% to £3,116,000 (1984 — £2,217,000)
- Earnings per share increased 59% to 21.41p (1984 — 13.47p)
- Final dividend 4.55p per share (1984 — 3.0p) giving total for the year of 6.65p (1984 — 4.50p)
- Anderson Instruments contributing materially to current year
- Further material increase in earnings forecast

Annual Report from The Secretary, Tace plc, Essex Hall, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JD



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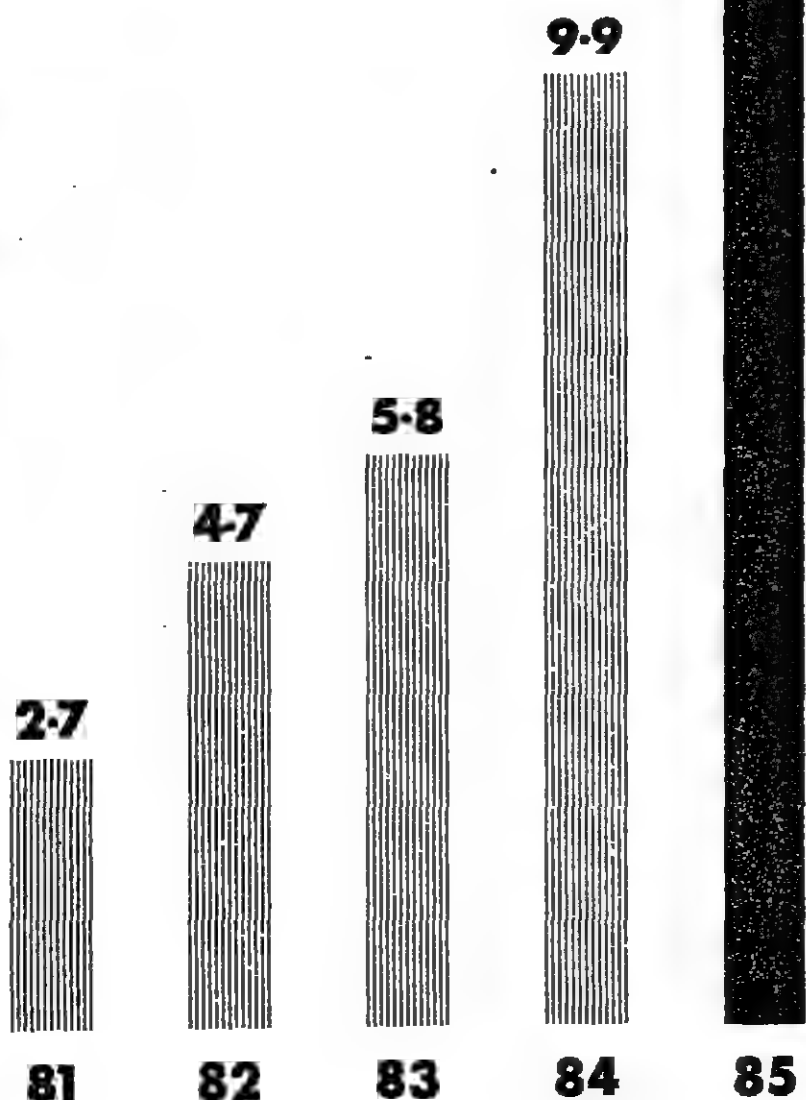
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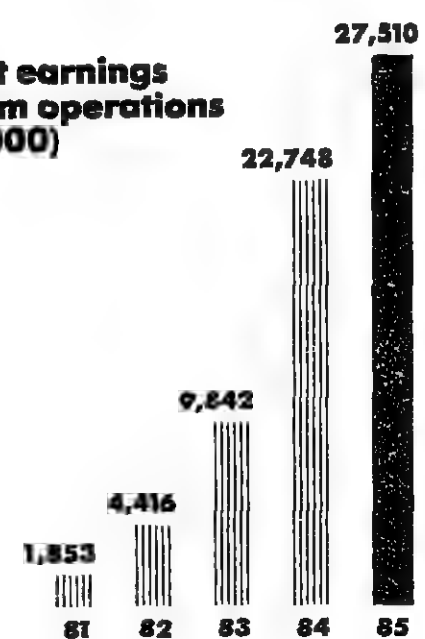
**INCOME TAX RELIEF 1985/86**

Earnings per share (pence)

“which have compounded at 48% per annum since 1981”



Net earnings from operations (£000)



“Hawley is now well positioned to take full advantage of the opportunities of sizeable internal and acquisitive growth.”

**MA Ashcroft**  
Chairman and President

If you would like a copy of the 1985 Annual Report, apply to: Prospect House, The Broadway, Farnham Common, Slough, Berkshire SL2 3PQ.







## COMPANY NEWS

## One-for-five Provident scrip

The Provident Financial Group is paying a final dividend of 10p for 1985, making a total of 15p (against 10.5p) and plans a one-for-five scrip issue. Group turnover rose from £329.09 million to £385.37 million. Pretax profit climbed from £19.41 million to £23.72 million. Tax is slightly higher at £9.7 million (£9.63 million). This year there is an extraordinary debit of £510,000 (nil). Earnings per share expanded from 23.7p to 33.95p.

● **CRA:** The company is paying a final dividend of 10p (4 cents) making a total of 15 cents for 1985 (8 cents). Equity-accounted net profit was £87.80 million (about \$42 million), against Aus \$29.54m. Sales revenue Aus \$4.69 billion (Aus \$3.43 billion).

● **BTP:** The company has disposed of the assets of its leasing subsidiary, IM Financial Services, for £1,437,320 in cash.

On turnover up from £1.77 million to £2.69 million, profit before and after tax of £1.14 million. With figures in 2001, Electronics earned £208,576 in 1985, against £161,016. Earnings per share rose from 31.25p to 44.05p and the company plans to make a three-for-one scrip issue.

● **BLADEN INDUSTRIES:** Total dividend of 7.2p (same) for 1985. Turnover £119.88 million (£72.4 million). Pretax profit £4.16 million (£2.98 million). Earnings per share 8.0p (14.7p). The board expects an early resolution of the problems in the plastics division and, subject to this, can expect significantly improved results in the current year.

● **JOHNSTONE'S PAINTS:** The group's second-half performance last year and the outlook for 1986 encourages the directors to recommend an increase of 11.9 per cent in the final dividend to 2.5p, making 4.0p (4p) for the year to Nov. 30, 1985. Turnover £11.96 million (£10.46 million). Profit before tax £1.54 million (£1.52 million). Earnings per share 9.12p (11.56p).

● **MICHAEL PETERS:** For the six months to December 31, 1985, the interim dividend was 1p (same). With figures in 2000, turnover was 3.674 (£2.248); pretax profit 207 (£338); earnings per share 2.01p (3.6p).

● **BARINGS:** Arrangements have been made for the transfer of the investment management business hitherto conducted by Barings Brothers and Co to Barings Investment Management (BIM). BIM will be wholly owned by the new group parent company, Barings, through an intermediate holding company, Barings Investment Management Holdings.

● **HIGH-POINT SERVICES:** Last Friday High-Point CIMS Inc, its American subsidiary, entered into an agreement with Mr Alfred E. Schaefer for the acquisition of Schaefer Associates, subject to formal consent from HM Treasury.

● **AMS INDUSTRIES:** In the year to November 30, 1985, the dividend was 0.82p net, as forecast in the prospectus. With figures in 2000, turnover was 4,928 (£3,479); operating profit 2,838 (£1,803); pretax profit 3,066 (£1,013); earnings per share before exceptional items 6.32p (3.62p) and after exceptional items 6.32p (1.90p).

● **POWERLINE INTERNATIONAL:** For the year to December 31, 1985, the final dividend was 1p, making 1.8p (1.4p). With figures in 2001, turnover was 7,803 (£6,110); trading profit 1,260 (£1,386); pretax profit 1,577 (£1,523); earnings per share 7.45p (6.84p).

● **INDUSTRIAL FINANCE AND INVESTMENT CORP:** The interim dividend was 1p (same) for the six months to December 31, 1985. With figures in 2000, turnover was 3,092 (£1,513); pretax profit 250 (£439); profit after tax 153 (£248); earnings per share 1.93p (7.41p).

● **ELLIOTT:** The company has acquired the entire issued share capital of J M Clarke (Electrical Engineers) of Leicester with effect from November 1, 1985. Clarke makes transformers and specialist power supply units.

● **KELVIN WATSON:** Acquisitions for the year for Watson by Cooperation GB Finance, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cooperation Inc, were as follows at 3 p.m. last Friday: ordinary offer (including acceptance of the loan stock alternative) 2,907,768 shares (96.9 per cent); preference offer 120,108 (40 per cent).

● **ROBERTSON RESEARCH:** The company has completed the acquisition of 79.6 per cent of Energy Resource Consultants. Consideration is being satisfied by the issue of 1,530,804 Robertson shares.

● **INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS:** The directors of the company and of Stonehart Publications have agreed that, subject to certain conditions, the company will offer to acquire all of Stonehart's issued share capital. The consideration for the acquisition will be a cash payment of £2.5 million payable on completion and a balance due in shares of the company.

● **MUNTON BROS:** For the six months to December 31, 1985 (against the eight months to December 31, 1984), there was no interim dividend (nil). With figures in 2000, turnover was 6,708 (£10,282); pretax profit 36 (£22 loss); earnings per share 0.22p (3.16p loss).

● **NEWLY WARREN HOLDINGS:** Final dividend 5p (same), making 7.5p (7p) for 1985. Pretax profit £1 million (£1.18 million). Earnings per share 14.4p (14.7p).

The Stat-Pac Group is paying a final dividend of 2p, making 3p (2p) for 1985. Turnover reached £5.67 million (£4.53 million). Pretax profit rose from £1.02 million to £1.53 million. Earnings per share were up from 7.5p to 12.5p. The board reports that in the first two months of the current year, trading has been excellent. The group's ability to generate cash while expanding has continued, with cash at the bank standing at £1.59 million at the end of 1985. The group has decided to seek a full listing on the stock exchange.

● **AFEX CORPORATION:** Dividend 7.5 cents for the year ended September 30. With figures in 2000, group pretax profit was 1,428 (£741). Earnings per share 30.4 cents (14.6 cents).

● **POLYTECHNIC ELECTRONICS:** Pretax profit for six months to November 30 was £433,000 (£350,000). Earnings per share 2.9p (2.3p).

● **ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS:** No interim dividend for six months to October 31 (same). Pretax loss: £395,000 (profit £45,000).

● **C CARBS:** No dividend (nil) for the year to Sept. 30, 1985. Turnover £252,936 (£360,565). Group trading loss, after all charges including tax, £51,474 (£20,147). Tax nil (nil). Loss on completion of the year £66,357 (£45,188). Loss after extraordinary items, £117,831 (£65,335). Loss per share 2.57p (1.01p).

● **COLNE VALLEY WATER CO:** Surplus for 1985 (after depreciation, debenture stock interest, transfer to contingency fund and tax) was £150,000 (£370,000). Dividends, paid at the maximum rate on the ordinary shares, absorbed £100,000 (same).

● **GOODWIN:** No interim dividend (nil). Turnover £4.87 million (£3.35 million). Pretax profit £333,000 (£101,000). Earnings per share 2.94p (0.90p).

● **WOOD GROUP:** No interim dividend (nil). Turnover for the six months to Sept. 30, 1985, £7.24 million (£8.85 million). Pretax profit £7,000 (£22,000). Earnings per share 0.1p (0.4p). The board expects a loss for the full year.

● **JOHN KENT:** For the 26 weeks to Nov. 23, 1985, the company is paying an interim dividend of 0.5p (0.425p) on April 14. Turnover £6.76 million (£5.61 million). Profit on ordinary activities, before tax, £402,000 (£321,000). Earnings per share 2.41p (1.77p). The company is to raise £1.25 million, net of expenses, through an underwritten rights issue of 2 million new shares at 70p each on a one-for-five basis. The company has bought the Acumano group of menswear shops for £500,000 cash. It is also to buy David Cedar, a menswear group comprising six shops in the Home Counties, for £725,000 cash.

● **INCH KENNETH KAJAN RUBBER:** A final dividend of 170 per cent is being paid on April 15, making a total 250 per cent (350 per cent) for 1985. Net profit £768,888 (£722 million).

● **HUMBERSIDE ELECTRONIC CONTROLS:** For the six months to Nov. 30, 1985, turnover was £544,996 (£316,323). Pretax profit £117,535 (£76,120). Earnings per share 0.3p (0.33p - netted). While the intake of firm orders is not as rapid as the board would have liked, the factory is operating at capacity and the company has several large contracts yet to be started, with further sizeable ones at an advanced stage of negotiation.

● **RIGHTS & ISSUES INVESTMENT TRUST:** The trust is reporting for 1985, on the income shares it is paying a final dividend of 3p, making 4p. On the capital shares, a supplementary dividend of 1.85p and a final dividend of 0.2p are being paid. Pretax profit £185,000 (£196,000). Earnings per share, income shares, 3.51p (3.69p) and for capital shares, 0.176p (0.185p). Net asset value of the income shares is 33p (48.5p) and of the capital shares, 138.5p (116.2p).

● **SYNAPSE COMPUTER SERVICES:** No interim dividend (nil). Turnover for the half-year to Jan. 31, 1986, £1.56 million (£906,000). Earnings per share 3.37p (2.73p).

● **INTEREUROPE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES:** Interim dividend of 1.8p (1.7p) for the half-year to December 31. Pretax profit was £596,000 (£678,000). Earnings per share 7.40p (7.72p).

● **NOBLE AND LUND:** Final dividend 0.35p, making 0.7p (0.1925p) for 1985. Pretax profit £278,396 (£59,147). Earnings per share 3.85p (1.02p).

## Two new directors for Baring Brothers



James G. Laing (above), who has been appointed deputy chairman of Y J. Lovell (Holdings). He will remain group financial director.

Boosey & Hawkes: Mr R H Asserson has been appointed chairman, succeeding Mr A R G Raeburn, who remains on the board as a non-executive director.

Baring Brothers & Co: Mr Christopher Heath and Mr Richard Onias have joined the board.

Inbucan Management Consultants: Mr Mike Treasure has been made director, London Region, computer personnel selection.

Lee International: Mr John T Davey has been named as non-executive chairman and Mr Colin S Wills as a non-executive director.

Kleeneze Shopping at Home: Mr Ken Sellers has

become managing director, direct retailing division. Clarkson Puckle UK: Mr P R H Friend and Mr B Grinyer have joined the board.

AMEC: Mr John Early has been appointed finance director.

Citicorp Investment Bank: Mr Andre Cohen has been appointed executive director in charge of Eurodollar operations for the Australasian region.

J M Jones & Sons (Holdings): Mr Michael J Bailey has been made group managing director.

Visitar Tuckers: Mr Michael C Scott has been named as operations director.

Crown Paints: Mr Paul

Lever has been made managing director.

Bestobell: Mr Gordon Lovett has been appointed managing director. Controls and Instrumentation Group.

Steel Window Association: Mr K R Fenner has been made director.

Moorgate Mercantile Holdings: Mr Gordon J Wiggins has been appointed a main board director.

London Shop Property Trust: Mr Clive Coward is to be an executive director.

Nationalised Industries' Chairman's Group: Mr Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, is to be chairman in succession to Sir Robert Haslam.

## NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

TO THE HOLDERS OF

## CDC INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION

## 5% GUARANTEED CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURE DUE APRIL 1, 1988

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the holders of outstanding 5% Sinking Fund Debenture due April 1, 1988 (the "Debenture") of CDC International Finance Corporation (the "Company") that in accordance with Sections 3.01, 3.04 and 4.01 of the Indenture of CDC International Finance Corporation (the "Indenture") among the Company and Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association (the "Trustee"), the Company has elected to redeem \$85,000.00 of the outstanding Debenture on April 1, 1988 (the "Redemption Date") through the operation of the Sinking Fund at 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with interest thereon at the rate of 5% per annum to the Redemption Date. The Trustee has selected Debentures to be redeemed bearing debenture numbers, as follows:

Bd-M5	Bd-M392	Bd-M1116	Bd-M2528	Bd-M4891	Bd-M7281	Bd-M10,442	Bd-M12,934
Bd-M6	Bd-M393	Bd-M1117	Bd-M2529	Bd-M4899	Bd-M7282	Bd-M10,443	Bd-M12,935
Bd-M7	Bd-M394	Bd-M1118	Bd-M2530	Bd-M5000	Bd-M7289	Bd-M10,449	Bd-M12,942
Bd-M8	Bd-M401	Bd-M1119	Bd-M2531	Bd-M5001	Bd-M7293	Bd-M10,454	Bd-M12,948
Bd-M9	Bd-M402	Bd-M1120	Bd-M2532	Bd-M5070	Bd-M7366	Bd-M10,544	Bd-M12,995
Bd-M10	Bd-M403	Bd-M1121	Bd-M2536	Bd-M5070	Bd-M7366	Bd-M10,544	Bd-M12,995
Bd-M10	Bd-M404	Bd-M1178	Bd-M2624	Bd-M5305	Bd-M7356	Bd-M10,593	Bd-M13,000
Bd-M11	Bd-M405	Bd-M1179	Bd-M2625	Bd-M5087	Bd-M7395	Bd-M10,600	Bd-M13,016
Bd-M12	Bd-M406	Bd-M1184	Bd-M2627	Bd-M5186	Bd-M7441	Bd-M10,644	Bd-M13,033
Bd-M13	Bd-M407	Bd-M1185	Bd-M2630	Bd-M5201	Bd-M7531	Bd-M10,666	Bd-M13,045
Bd-M14	Bd-M408	Bd-M1200	Bd-M2660	Bd-M5315	Bd-M7545	Bd-M10,722	Bd-M13,056
Bd-M15	Bd-M409	Bd-M1201	Bd-M2661	Bd-M5360	Bd-M7578	Bd-M10,776	Bd-M13,071
Bd-M25	Bd-M410	Bd-M1202	Bd-M2662	Bd-M5366	Bd-M7671	Bd-M10,784	Bd-M13,106
Bd-M26	Bd-M478	Bd-M1220	Bd-M2663	Bd-M5374	Bd-M7677	Bd-M10,818	Bd-M13,127
Bd-M27	Bd-M479	Bd-M1221	Bd-M2670	Bd-M5408	Bd-M7761	Bd-M10,863	Bd-M13,140
Bd-M28	Bd-M480	Bd-M1222	Bd-M2671	Bd-M5456	Bd-M7771	Bd-M10,864	Bd-M13,151
Bd-M29	Bd-M481	Bd-M1223	Bd-M2752	Bd-M5457	Bd-M7787	Bd-M10,906	Bd-M13,158
Bd-M30	Bd-M482	Bd-M1224	Bd-M2833	Bd-M5494	Bd-M7909	Bd-M10,952	Bd-M13,202
Bd-M31	Bd-M483	Bd-M1262	Bd-M2869	Bd-M5504	Bd-M7930	Bd-M10,961	Bd-M13,222
Bd-M32	Bd-M484	Bd-M1263	Bd-M2870	Bd-M5536	Bd-M7943	Bd-M10,968	Bd-M13,23
Bd-M33	Bd-M485	Bd-M1264	Bd-M2883	Bd-M5545	Bd-M8000	Bd-M10,982	Bd-M13,26
Bd-M34	Bd-M486	Bd-M1329	Bd-M2886	Bd-M5582	Bd-M8023	Bd-M10,995	Bd-M13,276
Bd-M35	Bd-M487	Bd-M1330	Bd-M2894	Bd-M5583	Bd-M8030	Bd-M11,000	Bd-M13,310
Bd-M36	Bd-M488	Bd-M1331	Bd-M2896	Bd-M5606	Bd-M8052	Bd-M11,027	Bd-M13,311
Bd-M37	Bd-M489	Bd-M1332	Bd-M2900	Bd-M5611	Bd-M8066	Bd-M11,029	Bd-M13,321
Bd-M38	Bd-M490	Bd-M1333	Bd-M2903	Bd-M5637	Bd-M8068	Bd-M11,070	Bd-M13,338
Bd-M39	Bd-M491	Bd-M1409	Bd-M2907	Bd-M5671	Bd-M8075	Bd-M11,077	Bd-M13,367
Bd-M40	Bd-M492	Bd-M1410	Bd-M2918	Bd-M5685	Bd-M8094	Bd-M11,111	Bd-M13,389
Bd-M41	Bd-M493	Bd-M1411	Bd-M2922	Bd-M5731	Bd-M8106	Bd-M11,144	Bd-M13,412
Bd-M42	Bd-M494	Bd-M1412	Bd-M2930	Bd-M5814	Bd-M8112	Bd-M11,191	Bd-M13,425
Bd-M43	Bd-M495	Bd-M1413	Bd-M2931	Bd-M5815	Bd-M8129	Bd-M11,220	Bd-M13,426
Bd-M44	Bd-M496	Bd-M1414	Bd-M2940	Bd-M5849	Bd-M8154	Bd-M11,269	Bd-M13,436
Bd-M45	Bd-M497	Bd-M1415	Bd-M2941	Bd-M5835	Bd-M8180	Bd-M11,299	Bd-M13,494
Bd-M46	Bd-M500	Bd-M1416	Bd-M2952	Bd-M5847	Bd-M8191	Bd-M11,300	Bd-M13,536
Bd-M47	Bd-M501	Bd-M1444	Bd-M2963	Bd-M5867	Bd-M8215	Bd-M11,336	Bd-M13,552
Bd-M48	Bd-M502	Bd-M1445	Bd-M2967	Bd-M5893	Bd-M8271	Bd-M11,361	Bd-M13,579
Bd-M49	Bd-M503	Bd-M1446	Bd-M2987	Bd-M5915	Bd-M8278	Bd-M11,372	Bd-M13,587
Bd-M50	Bd-M504	Bd-M1447	Bd-M2994	Bd-M5935	Bd-M8284	Bd-M11,400	Bd-M13,598
Bd-M51	Bd-M505	Bd-M1448	Bd-M3002	Bd-M5940	Bd-M8285	Bd-M11,430	Bd-M13,613
Bd-M52	Bd-M506	Bd-M1553	Bd-M3003	Bd-M5951	Bd-M8294	Bd-M11,439	Bd-M13,627
Bd-M53	Bd-M507	Bd-M1551	Bd-M3004	Bd-M5983	Bd-M8333	Bd-M11,493	Bd-M13,644
Bd-M54	Bd-M508	Bd-M1552	Bd-M3007	Bd-M5999	Bd-M8383	Bd-M11,533	Bd-M13,660
Bd-M55	Bd-M509	Bd-M1554	Bd-M3008	Bd-M6009	Bd-M8448	Bd-M11,550	Bd-M13,701
Bd-M56	Bd-M510	Bd-M1555	Bd-M3009	Bd-M6043	Bd-M8488	Bd-M11,608	Bd-M13,709
Bd-M57	Bd-M511	Bd-M1704	Bd-M3029	Bd-M6060	Bd-M8537	Bd-M11,616	Bd-M13,724
Bd-M58	Bd-M512	Bd-M1705	Bd-M3030	Bd-M6071	Bd-M8560	Bd-M11,647	Bd-M13,735
Bd-M59	Bd-M513	Bd-M1706	Bd-M3031	Bd-M6086	Bd-M8568	Bd-M11,669	Bd-M13,749
Bd-M60	Bd-M514	Bd-M1707	Bd-M3032	Bd-M6102	Bd-M8595	Bd-M11,698	Bd-M13,758
Bd-M61	Bd-M515	Bd-M1708	Bd-M3033	Bd-M6114	Bd-M8723	Bd-M11,748	Bd-M13,780
Bd-M62	Bd-M516	Bd-M1709	Bd-M3034	Bd-M6125	Bd-M8739	Bd-M11,777	Bd-M13,811
Bd-M63	Bd-M517	Bd-M1710	Bd-M3035	Bd-M6137	Bd-M8755	Bd-M11,807	Bd-M13,823
Bd-M64	Bd-M518	Bd-M1711	Bd-M3036	Bd-M6149	Bd-M8801	Bd-M11,826	Bd-M13,848
Bd-M65	Bd-M519	Bd-M1712	Bd-M3037	Bd-M6161	Bd-M8836	Bd-M11,830	Bd-M13,867
Bd-M66	Bd-M520	Bd-M1713	Bd-M3038	Bd-M6173	Bd-M8886	Bd-M11,857	Bd-M13,873
Bd-M67	Bd-M521	Bd-M1714	Bd-M3039	Bd-M6185	Bd-M8888	Bd-M11,881	Bd-M13,892
Bd-M68	Bd-M522	Bd-M1715	Bd-M3040	Bd-M6197	Bd-M8952	Bd-M11,881	Bd-M13,892
Bd-M69	Bd-M523	Bd-M1716	Bd-M3041	Bd-M6204	Bd-M8955	Bd-M11,932	Bd-M13,934
Bd-M70	Bd-M524	Bd-M1717	Bd-M3042	Bd-M6216	Bd-M8970	Bd-M11,995	Bd-M13,954
Bd-M71	Bd-M525	Bd-M1718	Bd-M3043	Bd-M6228	Bd-M9013	Bd-M12,017	Bd-M13,968
Bd-M72	Bd-M526	Bd-M1719	Bd-M3044	Bd-M6240	Bd-M9045	Bd-M12,027	Bd-M13,990
Bd-M73	Bd-M527	Bd-M1720	Bd-M3045	Bd-M6252	Bd-M9062	Bd-M12,035	Bd-M13,999
Bd-M74	Bd-M528	Bd-M1721	Bd-M3046	Bd-M6264	Bd-M9079	Bd-M12,056	Bd-M14,005
Bd-M75	Bd-M529	Bd-M1722	Bd-M3047	Bd-M6276	Bd-M9090	Bd-M12,081	Bd-M14,029
Bd-M76	Bd-M530	Bd-M1723	Bd-M3048	Bd-M6288	Bd-M9176	Bd-M12,102	Bd-M14,046
Bd-M77	Bd-M531	Bd-M1724	Bd-M3049	Bd-M6300	Bd-M9188	Bd-M12,128	Bd-M14,066
Bd-M78	Bd-M532	Bd-M1725	Bd-M3050	Bd-M6312	Bd-M9199	Bd-M12,138	Bd-M14,086
Bd-M79	Bd-M533	Bd-M1726	Bd-M3051	Bd-M6324	Bd-M9142	Bd-M12,168	Bd-M14,134
Bd-M80	Bd-M534	Bd-M1727	Bd-M3052	Bd-M6336	Bd-M9162	Bd-M12,188	Bd-M14,146
Bd-M81	Bd-M535	Bd-M1728	Bd-M3053	Bd-M6348	Bd-M9174	Bd-M12,200	Bd-M14,177
Bd-M82	Bd-M536	Bd-M1729	Bd-M3054	Bd-M6360	Bd-M9210	Bd-M12,219	Bd-M14,188
Bd-M83	Bd-M537	Bd-M1730	Bd-M3055	Bd-M6372	Bd-M9224	Bd-M12,237	Bd-M14,196
Bd-M84	Bd-M538	Bd-M1731	Bd-M3056	Bd-M6384	Bd-M9234	Bd-M12,263	Bd-M14,204
Bd-M85	Bd-M539	Bd-M1732	Bd-M3057	Bd-M6396	Bd-M9271	Bd-M12,280	Bd-M14,220
Bd-M86	Bd-M540	Bd-M1733	Bd-M3058	Bd-M6408	Bd-M9301	Bd-M12,297	Bd-M14,230
Bd-M87	Bd-M541	Bd-M1734	Bd-M3059	Bd-M6420	Bd-M9333	Bd-M12,321	Bd-M14,255
Bd-M88	Bd-M542	Bd-M1735	Bd-M3060	Bd-M6432	Bd-M9344	Bd-M12,334	Bd-M14,280
Bd-M89	Bd-M543	Bd-M1736	Bd-M3061	Bd-M6444	Bd-M9377	Bd-M12,334	Bd-M14,313
Bd-M90	Bd-M544	Bd-M1737	Bd-M3062	Bd-M6456	Bd-M9411	Bd-M12,362	Bd-M14,316
Bd-M91	Bd-M545	Bd-M1738	Bd-M3063	Bd-M6468	Bd-M9460	Bd-M12,402	Bd-M14,348
Bd-M92	Bd-M546	Bd-M1739	Bd-M3064	Bd-M6480	Bd-M9484	Bd-M12,407	Bd-M14,386
Bd-M93	Bd-M547	Bd-M1740	Bd-M3065	Bd-M6492	Bd-M9535	Bd-M12,427	Bd-M14,448
Bd-M94	Bd-M548	Bd-M1741	Bd-M3066	Bd-M6504	Bd-M9536	Bd-M12,448	Bd-M14,477
Bd-M95	Bd-M549	Bd-M1742	Bd-M3067	Bd-M6516	Bd-M9608	Bd-M12,480	Bd-M14,488
Bd-M96	Bd-M550	Bd-M1743	Bd-M3068	Bd-M6528	Bd-M9633	Bd-M12,499	Bd-M14,509
Bd-M97	Bd-M551	Bd-M1744	Bd-M3069	Bd-M6540	Bd-M9646	Bd-M12,507	Bd-M14,520
Bd-M98	Bd-M552	Bd-M1745	Bd-M3070	Bd-M6552	Bd-M9701	Bd-M12,521	Bd-M14,556
Bd-M99	Bd-M553	Bd-M1746	Bd-M3071	Bd-M6564	Bd-M9755	Bd-M12,535	Bd-M14,561
Bd-M100	Bd-M554	Bd-M1747	Bd-M3072	Bd-M6576	Bd-M9870	Bd-M12,544	Bd-M14,571
Bd-M101	Bd-M555	Bd-M1748	Bd-M3073	Bd-M6588	Bd-M9877	Bd-M12,557	Bd-M14,620
Bd-M102	Bd-M556	Bd-M1749	Bd-M3074	Bd-M6600	Bd-M9891	Bd-M12,571	Bd-M14,621
Bd-M103	Bd-M557	Bd-M1750	Bd-M3075	Bd-M6612	Bd-M9908	Bd-M12,574	Bd-M14,622
Bd-M104	Bd-M558	Bd-M1751	Bd-M3076	Bd-M6624	Bd-M9928	Bd-M12,574	Bd-M14,623
Bd-M105	Bd-M559	Bd-M1752	Bd-M3077	Bd-M6636	Bd-M10,011	Bd-M12,585	Bd-M14,721
Bd-M106	Bd-M560	Bd-M1753	Bd-M3078	Bd-M6648	Bd-M10,050	Bd-M12,597	Bd-M14,779
Bd-M107	Bd-M561	Bd-M1754	Bd-M3079	Bd-M6660	Bd-M10,061	Bd-M12,622	Bd-M14,815
Bd-M108	Bd-M562	Bd-M1755	Bd-M3080	Bd-M6672	Bd-M10,096	Bd-M12,644	Bd-M14,858
Bd-M109	Bd-M563	Bd-M1756	Bd-M3081	Bd-M6684	Bd-M10,113	Bd-M12,645	Bd-M14,892
Bd-M110	Bd-M564	Bd-M1757	Bd-M3082	Bd-M6696	Bd-M10,190	Bd-M12,658	Bd-M14,923
Bd-M111	Bd-M565	Bd-M1758	Bd-M3083	Bd-M6708	Bd-M10,200	Bd-M12,711	Bd-M14,948
Bd-M112	Bd-M566	Bd-M1759	Bd-M3084	Bd-M6720	Bd-M10,220	Bd-M12,734	Bd-M14,997
Bd-M113	Bd-M567	Bd-M1760	Bd-M3085	Bd-M6732	Bd-M10,280	Bd-M12,766	Bd-M15,000
Bd-M114	Bd-M568	Bd-M1761	Bd-M3086	Bd-M6744	Bd-M10,287	Bd-M12,784	Bd-M15,003
Bd-M115	Bd-M569	Bd-M1762	Bd-M3087	Bd-M6756	Bd-M10,297	Bd-M12,799	Bd-M15,009
Bd-M116	Bd-M570	Bd-M1763	Bd-M3088	Bd-M6768	Bd-M10,377	Bd-M12,823	Bd-M15,005
Bd-M117	Bd-M571	Bd-M1764	Bd-M3089	Bd-M6780	Bd-M10,411	Bd-M12,850	Bd-M15,006
Bd-M118	Bd-M572	Bd-M1765	Bd-M3090	Bd-M6792	Bd-M10,412	Bd-M12,862	Bd-M15,007
Bd-M119	Bd-M573	Bd-M1766	Bd-M3091	Bd-M6804	Bd-M10,413	Bd-M12,875	Bd-M15,008
Bd-M120	Bd-M574	Bd-M1767	Bd-M3092	Bd-M6816	Bd-M10,414	Bd-M12,891	Bd-M15,009
Bd-M121	Bd-M575	Bd-M1768	Bd-M3093	Bd-M6828	Bd-M10,415	Bd-M12,929	Bd-M15,010











RACING: BLANK SPELL DRAWS TO AN END AND A GRAND NATIONAL DREAM BEGINS

# Fitzgerald's fit team should leave the rest struggling

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Jimmy Fitzgerald looks the trainer to follow at Catterick today if racing does take place. After expressing a fair amount of surprise at the prospect yesterday, the genial 51-year-old Irishman, who lives not far away at Malton and most commands one of the most successful stables in the land, went on to intimate that his horses will not fail for want of fitness even after an enforced break of four weeks.

"Mine have done as much strong groundwork as they would have done normally; perhaps, upon reflection, even more," were his words. Long stints up his all-weather strip, interspersed with trips to the seaside to work along Filly beach seem to have done the trick.

With one eye cocked upon the rich pickings to be had at Cheltenham next week, Fitzgerald went on to say that the law permitting one bit of fast work on the grass this weekend should put his good horses, such as last year's Gold Cup winner *Forgive 'n Forget* and the Hennessy hero *Galway Blaise* just about right.

Today at Catterick Fitzgerald will be doubly represented by *Door Step* and *Bally-Go* in the Peter Vaux Memorial Trophy Handicap Chase which is the feature race. *Door Step*, who won the race 12 months ago, this will be the first of the season.

In the circumstances a repeat is probably expected to much, especially under top weight. But his stable companion, *Bally-Go*, in the hands of Mark Dwyer should be a tough nut to crack. He ran not long before the freeze-up at Market Rasen, where his third place behind *Another City* and *Dongul* Prince augured well for the future, especially bearing in mind that that was his first race of the season and he was taking on others who were hard as iron.

Welfare, who has won four races this term, including his first, which proves that he is a clean-winded animal, strikes me as being a greater threat than the novice, *Prince Santiago*.

Call Me Claire (2-45) and Tawny Spirit (4-15) could be other winners for Fitzgerald on his local track.

## Catterick hope after thaw

Prospects of racing resuming in Britain much earlier than expected after a break of 23 days depend on a 7.30 am inspection this morning. The clerk of the course, Kit Patterson, said: "There is a hope. We have a strong west wind and the frost is coming out of the ground." Today's other

The Ruddy Selling Handicap certainly represents a drop in class for Call Me Claire, who ran well enough behind Commander Robert at Wetherby to suggest that he like this should be there for the taking even with Matlot in the field.

Tawny Spirit, my selection for the second division of the Ruddy Novices Hurdle, is closely related on his dam's side to Fair Kitty, who is still among the best that Fitzgerald has trained in racing's latest version of Who's Who.

Not surprisingly, Fitzgerald has a soft spot for him. He has been careful not to rush Tawny Spirit knowing that he possesses the size and scope that decrees that he will be so much better after he has been given time to develop strength to match that frame.

All the same, Tawny Spirit still ran well enough in his only race over hurdles so far to suggest that he could even be up to coping with the more experienced Heathervale on these terms. Before that he had won a "bumper" at Market Rasen.

The earlier division should be won by *Aguada Beach*, who runs the nap. Also trained at Malton by Peter Eastbury, whose work, these past weeks, has also taken place alternately on all-weather strips and the sands beside the sea. *Aguada Beach* certainly did enough at Wetherby where he was runner-up to *Ballyragh* and at Cheltenham where he finished fourth behind *Saffron Lad* to say that he ought to be able to cope with the likes of *Bullion*, *Le Plait D'Ore* and *Star's Delight*.

Finally, there should be a rip-roaring duel for the Newby Novices Chase between *Cool Decision* and *Allien Glazed*. My feeling is that *Cool Decision* may well be hard-pressed to give a stone to *Allien Glazed* even though he has two victories over today's course and distance to his name. For just before the recent hard weather imposed its clamp, *Allien Glazed* ran really well at Sandown to finish third behind *Berlin* and *Desert Orchid* in the Seely Isles Novices Chase, and they are accepted as the best beginners in the land—at least, over that distance.

## Leopardstown results, page 22; Woodrow Wyatt speech, page 23

# Turnell looks up to 'The Boss'

In the third of a series on some of the less obvious candidates for the Grand National, JOHN KARTER visits Andy Turnell and his 40-1 chance, *Tracys Special*

Liverpool's bookmakers will be running for cover if *Tracys Special* wins the Grand National on April 5. For the last who looks after him, 21-year-old Tracy Glover (the name is purely coincidental), was brought up just a horse's head from the Aintree course and her vast Scouse army of family and friends—half the city of Liverpool—their laughing assurances as—will be piling all the cash they can carry on the nine-year-old gelding.

When she was knee high to a Shetland pony Miss Glover's grandfather would take her down to the famous Melling Road to watch the National horses thunder past. She became obsessed with racing and with the world's greatest steeplechase in particular. She remembers sneaking in over a wall and cheering the mighty Red Rum—"Tracys is much better than him", she jokes—and since then she has nurtured an all-consuming dream that she would one day lead a horse into that hallowed winner's enclosure.

While the Glover clan may be relying on blind faith in their support for the horse she refers to as "The Boss", because of the way he leads in his stable, the same could not be said of Andy Turnell, who trains the horse at East Head, in Oxfordshire. Hardly the sort of man given to blinkered over-optimism, Turnell has good, solid reasons for believing that *Tracys Special* could not only fulfil Miss Glover's dream, but also fill a gaping hole in the big-race record of the Turnells in this year's Seagram-sponsored event.

The Turnell name became synonymous with success in the post-war era of National Hunt racing. Andy's father, Bob, bagged nearly every worthwhile prize as a trainer, including the Gold Cup and Champion Hurdle, and Andy, although just missing out on the blue riband events, rode such outstanding horses as *The Laird*, *Birds Nest* and *Beacon Light* to many great victories.

## Unequivocal view of a special magic

Andy Turnell also won two Norwegian Grand Nationals and a Swedish one, but as yet, though, no Turnell has appeared on the Aintree roll of honour. Bob Turnell would have won on *Cloacurrag* in 1950, *Freebooter's* year, but for falling at the second last. He also rode *Irish Lizard* into third place in 1953.

As a trainer, Turnell senior's best result was in 1969 when he saddled three horses and all completed the course—*Rondetto* (third), *The Beeches* (fourth) and *Limeburner* (twelfth). The best Andy Turnell's 13



Sharing a dream: the two Tracys put their heads together to plot a path to glory at Aintree

rides yielded was a third place, on *Charles Dickens* in 1974. However, had it not been for a broken breastplate which seriously affected the horse's breathing and brought him to a standstill after the line, he might well have given Brian Fletcher and Red Rum something to think about on their way to a second victory.

Turnell also fell at the first fence in two Nationals, but his overall view of the great race is unequivocal. "There's a magic about it," he says, "his blue eyes sparkling. 'I loved riding in it. You feel you're really achieved something just to complete the course, or even get over the Chair for that matter.'"

So, as Steve Knight cautions down to the start on *Tracys Special*, Turnell's first runner as a trainer in the National, he admits he will not find playing the role of innocent onlooker easy. And it will be made particularly hard by the fact that Turnell believes that Knight has the genuine Nationalistic ardour underneath him.

"Given luck in running, I think he must have a live chance," Turnell says in that, considered way of his. "He's got a touch of class

and there are very few horses with his ability on that sort of handicap mark."

That ability saw *Tracys Special* win five good races the season before last, culminating in a victory in the Ritz Club Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. There he beat Rightward Man, who was conceding only 6lb and who went on to finish runner-up in the Gold Cup the following year. Indeed, Turnell believed that *Tracys Special* would himself be good enough to contest the Cheltenham showpiece before he developed a leg problem after running the following season's Hennessy Gold Cup.

## Sensing tangible air of optimism

"He didn't actually break down," Turnell says, "but he developed a 'leg' and we decided that as he was only seven it would be wise to give him the rest of the season off and bring him back this season for a crack at the National."

*Tracys Special* had his comeback race when fourth of four—he ran well for a long

way over a trip too short for him—to Combe Ditch at Wincanton in January. A minor knock prevented him having another outing before the freeze, but he has been galloping on the sands at Burnham and on Paul Cole's all-weather strip at Whitcombe and Turnell is confident that he is now as good as he ever was. "He is certainly not past his prime at all," he says. The plan is to try to win the Ritz Club at the Festival with him again next week and then on to Liverpool.

Turnell has not enjoyed the rub of the green since he moved to East Head from the traditional family headquarters at Marlborough. Two-thirds of his horses have been out of action for various reasons and he has only two winners this season.

Yet there is an almost tangible air of optimism running through the yard, with a certain lay gelding and a certain long-distance steeplechase very much on everyone's lips. The good-humoured staff of Orchard Stables may tease the less from Liverpool numerically, but deep down they believe that April 5 could be *Tracys Special's* day.

## Aintree preparations are well advanced

By Christopher Goulding

With the Grand National less than five weeks away, the groundstaff at Aintree are well on target with their preparations, despite the recent cold weather. Half of the 30 fences are now ready for this year's race on April 5.

John Parrett, the racecourse manager, said: "In the past we have had problems getting the materials through the snow, but this year we got all the birch and spruce to the course in plenty of time."

"The spruce comes from the Forestry Commission in North Wales and the birch from Cumbria. We also get some birch and gorse locally at Lord Derby's Knowsley estate."

The course itself is in good shape and we have not had a lot of frost up here."

Parrett is anticipating a bumper crowd this year as the tickets for the seating area in the County Stand are already sold out. "But there is still room on the terrace of the stand and this is considered the best viewpoint on the racecourse," Parrett said.

"With a three-week break between Cheltenham and Aintree this year, instead of two, we expect to have even better racing than usual. We have a new £20,000 race this year, the Glenlivet Hurdle for four-year-olds, on the Friday."

## Jockey Club to rule on Arab racing

By Jenny MacArthur

Arab horse racing in Britain has taken a significant step forward with the announcement yesterday that it is now under the jurisdiction of the Jockey Club. The sport has been followed closely by the Jockey Club since it started in this country in 1978 and yesterday's decision underlines its growing popularity and the number of registered horses in the sport last year was 179 compared with 75 in 1983.

The Arab Horse Society will continue in the day-to-day running, but the rules have to be approved by the Jockey Club and the owners and riders will be subject to the Jockey Club's disciplinary measures. So far the Arab Horse Society have not needed to employ any such measures.

This year the Emirates of Dubai, have increased their support for Arab horse racing in Britain to £85,000. Most of this will go in prize money spread over the eight meetings (one more than last year). The final fixture at Kempton Park on September 13, which holds the 14 mile international race the Dubai Stakes for pure-bred Arabs, will carry a first prize of £8,500.

The international rules have

one major change. All the horses must now be amateur ridden and amateur trained, thus bringing entries from abroad into line with British entries. The French horses which won last year's two international races in Britain, were both professionally trained. Mrs Joan Ratcliff, the chairman of the Arab Horse Society's racing committee, was optimistic yesterday that the Society will lead Europe into making Arab horse racing an amateur sport.

Meetings for 1986: May 10, Aintree; May 24, Goodwood; June 7, Towcester; June 14, Cheltenham; June 28, Newton Abbot; August 23, Market Rasen; September 13, Kempton Park.

Point-to-point dates The two point-to-point scheduled for Brian Beal writes: The South Herefordshire will race next Monday, March 10, with the original entries standing. Trevor Foxhounds, who have already had two attempts to hold their meeting, have a new date on Grand National day, April 5. All entries are cancelled and owners intending to run their horses on the new date must make a fresh application by 29 March 29.

## Law Report March 5 1986

# Share exchange is disposal for tax

Westcott (Inspector of Taxes) v Woolcombers Ltd

Before Mr Justice Hoffmann [Judgment given February 25]. To ascertain the acquisition cost of an asset for the purposes of computing the amount of any chargeable gain or allowable loss, the transfer of an asset by one company to its subsidiary in exchange for an allotment of shares was a "disposal" of that asset.

Mr Justice Hoffmann decided in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing a corporation tax appeal by the Crown from a decision of Bradford general commissioners in favour of the taxpayer company, Woolcombers Ltd. Having considered the interaction and the effects of paragraphs 4 and 6 of Schedule 7 and paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 13 to the Finance Act 1965, his Lordship held that paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 13 applied to such an exchange so as to entitle the taxpayer company to claim an allowable loss.

Mr Christopher McCall for the Crown, Mr Andrew Park, QC, for the taxpayer company. MR JUSTICE HOFFMANN said that in 1965 Woolcombers (Holdings) Ltd (Old W) acquired an asset, the share capital of three companies, for £1.2 million. In 1966 Old W transferred those shares to its subsidiary, Topmakers Ltd, in exchange for the allotment of 1,000,000 new £1 shares, credited as fully paid.

In 1971 Topmakers sold the shares in the three companies to the taxpayer company, also a subsidiary of Old W, for £601,235. In 1972 the three companies were wound up; the market value of the assets received by the taxpayer company by way of distribution in the liquidation was £601,235.

The question was whether the last transaction gave rise to an allowable loss available to the taxpayer company for the purpose of calculating its corporation tax liability on chargeable gains.

The liquidation of the three companies was a deemed disposal by the taxpayer company of an amount equal to the market value of the proceeds of the liquidation, that is £601,235. The dispute concerned the amount of the consideration for which the taxpayer was deemed to have acquired the shares.

By paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 13, where a member of a group of companies disposes of an asset to another member, both members were to be treated for tax purposes as if the asset acquired by the member to whom the disposal was made was acquired for a consideration of such amount as would secure that on the other's disposal neither gain nor loss accrued.

The commissioners, applying that provision, held that the taxpayer company was deemed to have acquired the shares for £1.2 million and that accordingly the liquidation gave rise to an allowable loss.

The Crown argued that paragraph 2(1) had no application to the 1966 transfer between Old W and Topmakers. That submission was based on paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 7 to the 1965 Act whereby "a reorganization or reduction of a company's share capital shall not be treated as involving any disposal of the original shares or any acquisition of new holdings," but the original shares (taken as a single asset) and the new

holding (taken as a single asset) shall be treated as the same asset acquired as the original shares were acquired."

That provision was made to apply to a share exchange in one company for shares in another by paragraph 6(1) (company amalgamations). The result was, the Crown said, that Old W had to be treated as not having disposed of the shares in the three companies or acquired the shares in Topmakers.

Thus, it argued, Topmakers had to be taken as acquiring the shares at their then market value—agreed to be £601,235—the transaction being otherwise than by way of bargain made at arm's length (see section 223(1)(a) of the 1965 Act).

Mr Park accepted that there must have been a disposal by Old W to Topmakers. He said that paragraphs 6(1) and 4(2) of Schedule 7 applied only for the purpose of computing the tax liability of Old W consequent on the share exchange.

For all other purposes, he said, the transaction remained what in truth it was a disposal of the shares in the three companies by Old W to Topmakers. The two limbs of paragraph 4(2) formed part of a single tax hypothesis, the assumption of a single continuing asset and the absence of a disposal and acquisition were two sides of the same coin.

The hypothesis was solely directed to the consequences of an exchange by one person of one shareholding for another. It required that that person be taxed as if he had continued to own the same asset.

Since that assumption plainly could not apply to the company which had acquired the original shares, the assumption that there was no disposal or acquisition could not have been intended to apply to that company.

Its effect was limited to the tax consequences of the transaction for the person who had exchanged holdings. There was no logic in applying it to the person who had acquired the original shares and substituting him in the hypothetical hypothesis of having made an acquisition without a disposal.

The policy of paragraph 2(1) was to recognise that for transactions between members of a group, the legal theory that each company was a separate entity did not accord with economic reality. It gave effect to that policy by, broadly speaking, ignoring transactions within the group.

All the provisions concerned were directed to neutralising the tax effects of transactions which were disposals in legal theory but not in real life.

It would be strange if the combination of the provisions was to give significance to a transaction (the acquisition of the shares in the three companies by Topmakers from Old W) which it was the policy of each of them separately to ignore.

Put another way, if the policy of paragraph 2(1) was to neutralise the tax consequences of transfers of assets within a group, why should it make a difference whether such a transfer was in exchange for an issue of shares or for some other consideration?

The provisions supported the conclusion reached on the basis of the language and the concepts employed. The Crown's appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Herbert Smith & Co.

## Booklet not part of benefit regulations

Regina v Department of Health and Social Security, Ex parte London Borough of Camden and Another

Before Mr Justice Macpherson [Judgment given February 26]

The requirement in section 33(3)(c) of the Supplementary Benefit Act 1976, as substituted by Schedule 2 to the Social Security Act 1980, that draft regulations be laid before Parliament was a mandatory rather than a directory requirement.

In making the Supplementary Benefit (Requirements and Resources) Miscellaneous Regulations (No 2) Regulations (SI 1985 No 1835) that requirement was complied with as on though the booklet *Supplementary Benefit Maximum Income, Initial Periods and Board and Lodging Allowance* was not laid before Parliament because that booklet was an external document and not part of the statutory instrument.

Mr Justice Macpherson so held in the Queen's Bench Division dismissing applications by the London Borough of Camden and Miss Beverley Nelson for judicial review of the enactment of paragraph 5 of Schedule 1A and paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 2A to the Supplementary Benefit (Requirements and Resources) Regulations (SI 1985 No 1835) which came into force on November 23, 1985.

Mr Richard Drabble and Miss Beverley Nelson for Camden; Mr Richard Drabble for Mrs Nelson; Mr Michael Bellof, QC, and Mr John Laws for the Department of Health and Social Security.

MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON said that the prime point concerned the failure to lay the booklet together with the draft regulations before Parliament. Before turning to that point his Lordship would deal with the second issue namely whether or not the requirement in section 33(3)(c) was a mandatory or regulatory requirement. There was little direct authority available to help in making that decision.

The academic textbooks laid down no direct rule but stressed that each case had to depend upon its own circumstances.

Having looked at the various cases to which he was referred his Lordship concluded that

while in many cases a command to lay was a mere instruction for the guidance and good management of those on whom the duty was imposed, in some cases the words were clear and strong and mandatory.

Section 33(3) provided that relevant regulations "shall not be made" unless the draft had been laid before Parliament. That affirmative resolution, without such resolution, therefore, there were no regulations made at all. Those special words appeared to be as strong as would be a clause requiring approval of Parliament before regulations would take effect.

Indeed, in one sense the instant provision was stronger, since it actually went to the power to make the regulations at all rather than to the steps which might be required to be taken to make them effective.

Turning to the heart of the case, the real question was whether the booklet was part and parcel of the draft regulations which had to be laid before Parliament. The plain fact was that the booklet was not part of the statutory instrument. It was expressly referred to by paragraph 5 of Schedule 1A as an external document, but it was not in ordinary language or in (1985) by the provisions of the 1985 Regulations which came into force on November 23, 1985.

It was a separate publication expressly referred to and not by any words or inference to be incorporated within the regulations. Regulations themselves made part of a document by which the secretary of state exercised his powers.

The question then was whether there was any principle or authority which prevented such a reference to an external document.

In his Lordship's judgment there was no technique of reference to outside documents, was well known in the circumstances there was no obligation to lay the booklet itself before Parliament.

The regulations were validly made. The booklet's inclusion set out the maximum amounts of payments. The applications failed.

Solicitors: Mr J. Nelson; Camm & Co. R. J. G. Smith; DHSS Solicitors.

## CATTERICK BRIDGE

GOING HORSE (7.30am inspection)

2.15 HORNY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 1) (2885-2m) (20 runners)	
1 30010 BULLION (Mr J. Park) Dwyer Smith 8-11-11	Mr M Thompson 4
2 00201 LUTON (Mr A. Bailey) A C Bailey 8-11-11	
3 00101 AMANTION (Mr J. Wadsworth) J Wadsworth 8-11-11	Mr J Wadsworth
4 00101 BORDAUX (Mr J. Dwyer) J Dwyer 8-11-11	Mr J Dwyer
5 00101 CHIEF (Mr J. Wadsworth) J Wadsworth 8-11-11	Mr J Wadsworth
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20 00101 CHIEF (Mr J. Wadsworth) J Wadsworth 8-11-11	Mr J Wadsworth

2.15 HORNY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 2) (2885-2m) (21)

1 22101 HEATHVILLE (Mr J. Wadsworth) J Wadsworth 8-11-11	Mr J Wadsworth
2 00101 TRAVEL (Mr J. Wadsworth) J Wadsworth 8-11-11	Mr J Wadsworth
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21 00101 TRAVEL (Mr J. Wadsworth) J Wadsworth 8-11-11	Mr J Wadsworth

2.15 HORNY NOVICE HURDLE (Div 3) (2885-2m) (21)

1 00101 ALL-STAR (Mr J. Wadsworth) J Wadsworth 8-11-11	Mr J Wadsworth
2 00101 ALL-STAR (Mr J. Wadsworth) J Wadsworth 8-11-11	Mr J Wadsworth
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## RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY/2

## PROPERTY FOR COUNTRY PROPERTY

## Good enough for a Guinness

■ Precious fields, at Northam, East Sussex, is an unusual country house designed by the architect Sir Edward Maufe for a member of the Guinness family in the 1830s. The house is set in landscaped gardens including an ornamental lake and woodland, and has a swimming pool heated by solar power. The white-walled house has a columned portico and the large drawing room has an Adam-style fireplace. There is a dining room, study, and three bedrooms, one with a bedroom on suite. It has a kitchen, garden and out-houses, and Geering and Coyle's Hawkhurst office is seeking offers around £185,000.

■ Whickers at Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, was built at the turn of the century when parts of the stretch of the Thames were sold off in plots. The part-brick, part-rendered Edwardian property has three reception rooms and seven bedrooms, stands in two acres which include a swimming pool, and has a 195th direct frontage on the river. Savills is seeking for offers of more than £200,000.

## Coastal haven

■ Haven House, described as one of the finest houses in Sandwich, Kent, is for sale through Strutt & Parker's Canterbury office, which gives a guide price of £350,000. The Grade II listed house is believed to have been built in the 16th century and stands on the site of an even earlier house enclosed by high 13th-century walls. It was re-fronted with a Georgian facade of painted brick in the 18th century, but the Tudor timber framing with brick nogging is still visible at the back. The accommodation includes four reception rooms, four bedrooms and four bathrooms.

■ It is a week for conservatories — both at the Ideal Home Exhibition and elsewhere. Seddells at Lymington, Hampshire, is a period farmhouse dating from Cromwellian times and has recently been renovated and modernised. The house has four bedrooms and three reception rooms, including a fine paneled drawing room, with a conservatory added by the present owners. Jackson and Jackson of Lymington is asking around £250,000.

## Three in one

■ Forge House, in the village of Coleshill, Buckinghamshire, dates back to the 15th century, and was originally four cottages which have been converted to provide the main house out of three, while the fourth has a tenant. At one stage it was a pottery, during the Napoleonic Wars it became a billet for captured French officers, and for nearly 200 years it was a wayside inn known as the Fleur-de-Lys. The Grade II listed house has three reception rooms, a conservatory and five bedrooms, and stands in about one and a half acres of garden. Taylor Buckland of Beaconsfield is asking £300,000.

■ In last week's mention of St James' Grange at West Littleton, Marshfield, Wiltshire, the telephone number for the owner, who is selling privately, should have read 0225 893772.



Snowdon Ridgeway, in the picturesque main street of Burford, Oxfordshire, is a fine listed 17th-century house for sale at around £295,000 through Jackson-Stops and Staff's Chichester office. The house dates back to 1736, and the dressed Cotswold stone with its string course and such windows, provide a good example of the architecture of the period. It has six bedrooms, a working lift and three reception rooms, one of which is an impressive oak conservatory built by a local joiner without screws or nails, wooden dowels being used throughout. Demand for quality houses in Burford is such that the guide price could be exceeded.

## Sitting tenants are bats

When the auctioneer begins to take bids for Nettleton Mill, near Castle Combe, Wiltshire, on March 19, there could be more than a squeak of interest in the proceedings.

For the mill, to be auctioned at the Francis Ford, Bath, is in a picturesque spot close to the village, it is the sort of dilapidated property which is ready for conversion, and there is an added ingredient — bats.

The little furry creatures have already caused a good deal of interest in Hampshire because of their presence in a canal tunnel which is waiting to be cleared, and now their cousins in Wiltshire are about to make their presence felt.

For in the eaves of the coach house is a nursery roost of a colony of rare Daubenton bats and of the even rarer Lesser Horseshoe bats. Both species are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and are important enough to warrant the attention of the Nature Conservancy Council, which has issued detailed instructions on the provisions that must be made for them when the buildings are converted.

Nettleton Mill and its buildings are to be sold in two lots. The mill has more than half an acre of land, and frontage and fishing rights of about 200ft on the trout stream, Broadmead Brook. The mill buildings, in which the bats have made their home, are being offered with a two-acre paddock. Both the mill and buildings are in a poor state of repair,

but have great potential, according to the agents, T.H. and Noad of Chippingham, and each has planning permission for use as a single dwelling.

The beautifully sited property was recently used for filming the TV serial of Robin Hood, and the agents expect a sum between £40,000 and £50,000 for the mill and £50,000-£60,000 for the buildings and paddock. Whether that means the bats are worth £10,000 is another matter.

In its report, the Nature Conservancy Council reported that the mill was in an extremely poor state of repair and did not seem to be of significance to the local bat population. That might suggest that the bats were discriminating, but one Greater Horseshoe bat was found in the mill's lean-to.

But the barn building, where the Daubenton bats roost between the inner and outer layers of roofing felt, is a more serious matter. Although they are there only during the breeding season from June to September, restrictions have been laid down to ensure that the new roof is suitable for them, and the conversion must not be carried out during the breeding season. Similar conditions apply to the Lesser Horseshoe bats, to ensure that they can remain in their habitat — and not even be disturbed by the building work.

The agents do not specify "bat-lover" wanted for derelict buildings of great potential, but it would clearly help.

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